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# 38 Testimony of Ardashes Tashdjian

Krikor Guerguerian

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Dec, 24, 1918

T e s t i m o n y

o f

Ardashes

~~Ardashes~~ Tashjian, an Armenian soldier

*in the Turkish Army.*

Transliteration

English Translation

Yozgatta Düzkaya mahal-  
lesinden olup misafireten Pan-  
galtı mevkinde, Akbaba soka-  
ğında Potukyan Stepanın kırk  
numaralı hanesinde bulunduğu  
ve iki gün sonra Yozgada gide-  
ceğini orada kunduracılık et-  
mekte olduğunu söyleyen otuz-  
dokuz yaşında Ardashes bin  
Mardiros Taşçıyanın ifadesidir.

This is the testimony of Ar-  
dashes Tashjian son of Mardiros  
Tashjian, 39 years old, guest of  
Stepan Potoukian, of the ward of  
Douzkaya, Yozgat, now resident  
at Pangalti, Akbaba Street No 40  
and who shall go to Yozgat within  
two days as a shoemaker accor-  
ding to his own statement.

~~Yozgatta~~

23 Kânunuevvel 334.

December 23, 1918.

Suâl.- Yozgat Ermenilerinin  
tehciri vesilesiyle vukua gelen  
fenalıklar hakkında gördüğün  
neden ibaret ise beyan ediniz.

Can you give us information  
concerning the deportation of the  
Armenians of Yozgat? What did you  
see or heard ~~at~~ <sup>on</sup> the occasion con-  
cerning the atrocities?

C.- Ben Yozgatta Paviyon  
İnşaat bölümünde eskerdim.  
Yüzbaşım Hüseyin Fikri Beydi.

R. I was a soldier in the  
Pavillion buildings at Yozgat.  
My officer was Captain Husein Fik-  
ri Bey.



Bir gün mümaileyhin hanesine hizmet için gittim. Hanesi yüksek bir mevkideydi.

Kasabada bir fenalık olduğunu Hüseyin Fikri Beyin haremi görmüştü. Benim o sırada kasabaya çıkmalığımı mezbure münasip görmedi. Otuzaltı saat kadar beni hanesinde sakladı. Ben o hanede saklıyken beşyüz-kırk kişilik bir Ermeni kafile-sini kasabadan dışarıya götür-düklerinin ve otuzu mütecaviz arabaya bir bağısız olarak ve yaya olanları arabaların önün-de ikişer ikişer bağlı olarak gitmekte bulunmuş olduklarını ve bunlarla beraber Yozgat Jandarma Tabur Kumandanı Tevfik Beydi, ve Yozgadın Taşköprü mahallesinden Tevfikzade Abdullah Ağa ahali-i İslâmiyeye hitaben: "Anamız bizi bu gün için doğurmuş", olduğundan

One day I went to his home. His house was in a high position. The wife of Husein Fikri Bey saw that wickedness was going on outside in the town. She did not feel it opportune to permit me to <sup>go</sup> ~~go~~ out. She <sup>Kept</sup> ~~retained~~ me at home thirty-six hours. I was hiding in the house. I saw a convoy of five-hundred fourty Armenian deportees going out of the town in more than thirty ox-carts each with two massive wooden wheels. Those who were walking in front of the ox-carts were tied together two by two. I saw Tevfik Bey, Gendarmerie Commander of Yozgat with the convoy giving orders and Tevfitzade Abdullah Agha of Tash-Köprü (Stone Bridge) ward of Yozgat, shouting to Moslem people the following slogan : "Our mothers gave us birth for today", inviting them to join him with their

bahisle fişenkler ve silâhlarla mücehhez bulunan kendisine iltihak etmelerini bağırarak teşvik ediyordu, ve altıyüz kişi kadar Müslüman askerlikçe müsün bulunanları bu sevkten yirmi gün evvel jandarma yapmışlardı. Merhum Abdullah da olmuştu. Kasabanın Ermeni mahallerini mıntakalara ayırarak bu altıyüz kişiyi bu mıntakalara yerleştirmişlerdi.

Firengi  
~~Yer/yer~~ aletlerini yaptırmak üzere Yüzbaşı Hüseyin Fikri Beyin hanesine gelmiş ve korkusundan bir gece orada kalmış olan marangoz Garabet Ağa ile ertesi günü saat bir buçukta hanemize gitmek üzere yola çıktık. Samanpazarından köprü başına kadar giderek, Yozgattan iki saat mesafede Çalatlı kariyesinde ~~Øx/Øx~~ Uzun Ahmet Çavuşa rasgeldik. Hanemize götürmek üzere yedi lira verip mezkûr köprü başına

weapons and cartridges, and six hundred Moslem deserters were registered twenty days ago as gendarmes. The above said Abdullah was registered also as a gendarme.

They divided the Armenian wards of the town into zones and settled in these zones six hundred ~~Øx/Øx~~ gendarmes.

In order to repair foreign made devices, carpenter Garabet Agha came to the house of Husein Fikri Bey and as he was afraid, spent a night there. Next day he and me, we went out to go to our respective homes at 1:30 P.M. We walked from the Straw Market to the Stone Bridge. We met Ouzoun Ahmed Chavoush at Chalatlî village, two hours distant from Yozgat. We gave him seven Turkish pounds asking him to lead us to our homes.



geldiğimizde, Yozgatlı jandarma Rüstem ve Mamasoğlu Ahmet ve isimlerini bilmediğim iki köylü ve yine ismini bilmediğim bir polis Efendi beni ve Garabet ağayı aldılar, yolda Yozgat Müftüsüne rasgeldiğek hanemize kadar gitmemiz için delalet etmesini rica ettikse de, "büz karışmayız", dedi. O jandarmalar bizi polis komiseri dairesine götürdüler. Komiser Mehmet Sait Efendiydi. Şimdi Kırşehirin de bulunuyor.

"Bunları niçin doğrudan doğruya nezarethaneye göndermiyorsunuz da benim nezdime getirdiniz", diye onlara söyledi. Komiser bize hitaben: "Sizi cıracakla aradık, bulamadık, nerede idiniz"? diye sordu. Biz de "Korkudan saklanmıştık", dedik. Saklandığımız yeri söylemek üzere ısrar etti. "Kışlanın çatısında saklıydım, açlığa dayanamadığımdan çıktım"

When we arrived to the bridge, a gendarme of Yozgat, namely Roustem and Mamasoğlu Ahmed and two peasants whose names I don't<sup>not</sup> remember, and a policeman whose name I don't<sup>not</sup> know, took us, Garabed Agha and me. On our way we met <sup>the Mufti</sup> ~~A/gha~~ of Yozgat, asked him to help us and guide us to get home. He said: " We cannot interfer". Gendarmes took us to the police station. The Commissioner was Ahmed Said Efendi, who is now at Kirshehir.

He said: "Why did you not take them directly to the Administration? Why did you bring them here" ? The Commissioner said to us. "We searched for you but did not find you, where were you hidden"? We told him: " Hunger insistantly urged us to tell where we were hidden. We were hidden at Chatish barracks, we could not help as we were hungry

cevabını verdim. Bu suâl cevap esnasında mevki Kumandanı Salim Bey oradan geçerek bizi gördü. Biz görüncce, komiserlik dairesine girdi. "Siz ne oldunuz, ben sizi arıyordum", dedi, halımızı ima ettik, bunun üzerine Salim Bey Komisere hitaben: "Bunları ne tutuyorsunuz? Kendileri askerdir, serbest bırakınız", dedi.

Komiser istisnaya dair bir emri olmadığından serbest bırakamayacağına söylediysede, Salim Bey: "Ben mevki Kumandanıyım, bunların muzir fiili varsa, meydana çıkarınız", dedi, ben bunları size veremem", dedi. Bunun üzerine Komiser Mutasarrıfın nezdine getti, bir az sonra geldi, bizi Salim Beye teslim etti.

Yozgattan dokuz saat mesafede Kızılyar fabrikatörü Ama-

we replied. During this talk, of questions and answers, the Commandant de Place Salim Bey saw us while crossing the street, entered the police station: "What are you doing here, I was searching for you", he said. We told him our story. Salim Bey said to the Commissioner: "Why are you arresting these people? They are soldiers, let them go", he said.

The Commissioner insisted on the exceptional circumstances and made it understood that he has no order to let us go. Salim Bey said to him : "I am the Commandant de Place, if they are suspected, let me see their files, I cannot give you them", he said. Upon this the Commissioner went to consult the Mutesarif. He came back a few minutes later, delivered us to Salim Bey.

While we were in the office of the Commissioner, policemen



syalı Garabet Efendi, biz henüz Komiserin odasında-ken, oraya getirdiler. "Bu adamı sevkolunacak üçbin kişide bir fabrikatör olamaz", diye söylendi. Salim Bey fabrikatörü de alıp, elyevm Yozgatta bulunur.

Salim Bey hanelerimize götürmek üzere Bulduk isminde asker bir Müslüman neferini kanun sıfatıyla memur etti.

Evvela fabrikatörü misafir bulunduğu haneye, sonra Garabedi hanesine götürdük. Sonra beni haneme götürdükten mıntıkalara bize dokunmamaları için ve serbest bulunduğumuzu söylemesini kanuna tenbih ekmişti.

Ertesi günü dahi Komiser muavini Kuşbaşoğlularından Huseyin Efendi haneye gelip ne kadar Ermeni varsa buradan gedecektir. Bunlar nerede bulu-

brought there Garabed Efendi of Amasia, manufacturer, coming from Kizilyar village, 9 hours distant from Yozgat. "Should a manufacturer be among three thousand persons to be deported"? They asked the question. Salima Bey took also the manufacturer, who actually is in Yozgat.

Salim Bey appointed a Moslem soldier, namely Bouldouk, in order to lead us to our respective homes.

First of all we went to the house where the manufacturer was a guest, then we went to the home of Garabed. Afterward I went to my house. Salim Bey had recommended to this soldier ~~to~~ <sup>what he</sup> protect us against attacks, and to ~~state~~ <sup>say</sup> that we were free.

Next day the assistant Police Commissioner, Husein Efendi of Kushbashoglu, came to home and told me : " All Armenians, wherever they may be, have to go away. You

nurlarsa söyleyeceksin", dedi. Bende buna dair malumatım olmadığını söyledim.

Gündüzleri Komiser daire-sinde, geceleri hanemde kalı-yordum. Birinci kafileden yir-midört saat sonra dört yüz ki-lik bir kafilayı sevkettiler.

Dağıstanlı Jandarma Onba-şısı İsmail ile isimlerini bilmediğim kırk kadar jandarma bunları yola çıkardılar.

Ondan sonra Yozgatlı Kışakzade komiser muavini Numan ile polis Komiseri Mehmet İshak Efendi arasında "bu mutasarrıf işi bulandırmak bir şey yapamayacaktır, Boğazlıyan kaymakamı vekil olarak buraya gönderilmesi için telgraf çekilmiş yolunda alenen konuştuklarını gördüm. vekâleten oraya geldiği şâyı olduktan üç gün sonra Boğazlıyan Kaymakamı Kemal Bey

must reveal to me their whereabouts" I replied to him that I had no in-formation concerning what he asked me for.

I spent the day-time in the police station, and night time at home. Twenty four hours after the deportation of the first con-voy, another convoy of 400 Armenians was deported.

Daghistanli Gendarme sergeant İsmail with about fourty gendarmes whose names I don't know, deported the convoy.

Then I heard that the assis-tant Commissioner Kishakzade New-man Efendi of Yozgat and the Polis Commissioner Mehmed İshak Efendi were talking as follows: "The Mu-tesarif (Jemal) will confuse this affair and could not be able to do anything. A telegram was des-patched to appoint the Kaymakam

I heard all the people talking about Three days after this request, Kemal Bey, Kaymakam of Boghazlian came to Yozgat as Provisional Mu-tesarif.



Yozgada Mutasarrıf Vekili olarak geldi. Beş sıra fişenklik hamıldı. Bütün tertibatı nezaret etti.

Sungurlu kazasından tüccardan bir çok zatlar yüklü otuz-otuzbeş araba geldi, Yozgatta topladığı ahaliyi bunlara kattı yedibin kişiye baliğ oldular, oradan Yozgada altı saat mesafede olan Taşpınar kariyesine gönderdiler, ikinci kafiyei Yozgattan toplıyarak sekiz-dokuz yüz kadar bağı arabasına yüklediler, bunlar meyanında erkek, kız, çocuk bulunuyordu. Kayseri tarihiyle sevkettiler.

Üçüncü kafiye üçyüz bağı arabasının aldığı derecede insanlar kasabaya yarım saat mesafede Çalatlı köprüsüne götürdüler. Bunlar meyanında şimdiki halde Ankarada Keser-kame Hartum namı, diger Hasan Fehmi Efendinin yanında bulunan

He was bearing five cartridge-belts. He made administrative arrangements.

In 30<sup>to</sup>35 carts, many Armenian tradesmen came from the county of Soungourlou. He gathered with them people who were arrested in Yozgat. Their number was 7.000. He deported them to Tashpınar village, 6<sup>to</sup>7 hours distant from Yozgat.

The second convoy was gathered from Yozgat, on 800<sup>to</sup>900 ox-carts with two massive wooden wheels. Among them there were men, girls, children. They deported them via Kayseri.

The third convoy on three hundred carts each with two massive wooden wheels. They were brought to Chalatlı Bridge two hours distant from Yozgat. In this convoy there were Haroutiun Keserikian now resident at Ankara, another one Mrs. Annik of my county who

hemşirem Annig ve kızı ondört yaşında Anuş ve oğlu oniki yaşında Yervant vardı.

Mezkür köprü yanında büyük küçük kadın ve kızları ayırıp beşer onar İslâm köylerine tevzi ettiler.

Erkeklerinin oradan ne yapıldıklarına dair hiç bir malûmat alınmamış ve öldürüldükleri tevatiren anlaşılmıştır.

Bunların üzerine Jandarma Kumandanı Tefit Bey bizzat bulunmuştur.

Dördüncü kafilâ yine Sungurlu kasabasından Yozgâda getirâlou village was brought to Yozgat. dikleri otuzaltı kişiyi Yozgat bakiyeyi ahalisinden ayrılmak üzere yuzelli kişiye iblâğ ettiler. Bunlar Yozgat içersinde iken Pöhrenk kariyesinden Hampartzum Kehya ve Yozgatlı kıranataci Ğukas odun ve balta ile öldürülmüş isede,

is now in the house of Hasan Fehmi Efendi and her daughter Anoush fourteen years old and her son Yervant 12 years old.

At Chatalja Bridge they separated elders, children, women and girls, and settled by groups of five or ten in Moslem villages.

I did not get information concerning males, but there is evidence that they were massacred.

Gendarmerie Commander Tefik Bey supervised them for a while.

The fourth convoy of Sungour- In order to separate the people under escort, thirty-six persons were added and made the number one hundred fifty, when they were in Yozgat., Hampartzum Kehia of Pöhrenk village and clarinet player Ghoukas of Yozgat were killed by bludgeon and axes, but this being



— kalabalık içerisinde vuku  
bulduğundan katilleri hak-  
kında hiç bir malûmat  
— ~~alınamamıştır~~ alınamamıştır.

done by the mob, we did not get  
information concerning the exact  
details of their murder.

Bu dördüncü kafilayı  
kasabadan üç saat mesafede  
Beşir Yayla kariyesinânkadar  
götürdüler.

The fourth convoy was con-  
ducted to Beshir Yayla village  
three hours distant from town.

Üçüncü ve dördüncü kafilâ  
çetebaşı Ebelerin Rıza ve  
Yozgatta Reji Kolcusu Çerkez  
Ahmet ve Çerkez Mecitce ve  
Tevfikin Abdullah ve Silmenli  
Yusuf ve Dağıstanlı İsmail  
Onbaşı Resi oldukları çeteler  
Yozgata bir buçuk saat mesafede  
olan Köse Behesnili kariyesine  
götürdüler.

The second and the fourth  
convoys were massacred by the  
chete-gang leaders: Ebelerin Rıza,  
the Circassian Ahmed, guardian  
of Regie Tobacco in Yozgat, and  
the Circassian Mejidje, Tevfikin  
Abdullah, and Youssouf of Silmen,  
and Sergeant İsmail of Daghistan  
being the leaders of chete-gangs.  
They brought the convoys to Köse  
Behesnili village one and half  
hour distant from Yozgat.

Ondan sonra her gün onar  
onar Yozgattan Ermeniler  
bakiyesini harice götürdüler.

Then every night by groups of  
ten the Armenians of Yozgat were  
led and massacred out of town.

Bütün bu vekayin kâf-  
fesi Kemal Beyin tarafından

All these massacres were  
organized by Kemal Bey.

tertıp ve icra edilmiştir.

And had them carried out.

Kemal Bey Yozgada goldi-  
gi vakit Muhasebeci Vehbi Bey  
hanesine ma'aile misafir  
olmuş ve gedinçeye kadar  
mümaileyhin hanesinde misafir  
kalmıştır.

When Kemal Bey came to Yozgat he was resident as a guest with his family at the home of the Chief Accountant Vehbi Bey and he remained there as a guest until he left the town.

Her gece Muhasebecinin hanesinde Ayaş Bey de hazır olduğu halde Kemal Beyle müzakere ederler, verdikleri kararlar ertesi günü icra olurdu.

Every night at the home of the Chief Accountant, Ayash Bey being present, he used to make with them deliberations and decisions. They carried out out these decisions they had made themselves, next day.

Böylece mütevatırdır.

This is an evidence known by every one.

Yozgatlı Postacı Mehmedin, Çebisin Şükrü çetebilerden olup ikiyüz kişi öldürdüğünü Paviyon İnşaatında ~~YKZP/~~  
~~YKZL/ZKZLZP/ZP~~ mustahdim Yozgatlı Helva Kapanın sekiz yerde ve Yozgatta mukim Karslı Şamilden de bir çok Ermenilerin katl olduğunu işittim.

Mehmed, postmaster of Yozgat, Chobesin Shukri, were chete-gang leaders. Each of them had killed two hundred Armenians. I heard this from an employee of construction at Pavillion workers at Helva Kapan of Yozgat in eight localities and from Shamil of Kars, resident at Yozgat, that they had massacred many Armenians.

12 Tahsildar Ğazaros Efen-  
diyi öldürdükten"Hükûmetle bir  
hisabım vardır, beni öldürme-  
yiniz" demişsede, müsaade et-  
mediklerinde savař atılan sırada  
Dağıstanlı jandarmaların Reisi  
İsmail Onbaşı tarafından atılan  
tüfengin kurşunuyla kulağının  
arkasından vurduğunu gördü-  
ğünü o sırada Yozgatta bulunan  
Kayserili Mustafadan işittim.

Birde Yozgat eşrafından  
Çapanzade Derviş Bey vardır,  
geçirilecek Ermeni kabilelerini  
öldürmelerine Garibler kariyesi  
Rum ahalisine tenbih ettiğı  
halde onlar muvafakat etmedik-  
lerinde gücenip "Rumlar da  
Ermenilerden aşağı değildir,  
kesilecek adamlardır", diyerek  
Yozgatta Eczacı Nail Efendinin  
eczahanesinde mevki Kumandanı  
Salim Bey hazır olduğı hlade  
alenen söylediğini tesadüfen  
işittim.

Tax collector Ghazaros Efen-  
di said to them when they were kil-  
ling him : " I have an account with  
the Government, don't <sup>not</sup> kill me",  
they did not take it into consi-  
deration. I heard this from Mus-  
tafa of Kayseri resident at Yoz-  
gat, who had seen himself that  
he was killed by a bullet shot  
by Sergeant İsmail, gang-leader,  
Chief of the Gendarmes of Daghis-  
tan, and that the bullet had cros-  
sed over his ear.

There is Chapanzade Dervish,  
a notable of Yozgat, who gave the  
order to Greek peasants of the  
village of Karibler, to kill the  
Armenian convoys. The Greeks did  
not carry <sup>out</sup> his order. He was angry.  
He said that Greeks also were <sup>as</sup>  
worthy to be massacred as Arme-  
nians. He <sup>said</sup> ~~told~~ this in public  
at the pharmacy of Pharmacist  
Nail Efendi in the presence of  
Salim Bey, Commandant de Place  
of Yozgat. I heard this by ac-  
cident.

Yozgat Mutasarrıf-ı ve  
Mevki Kumandanı Salim Bey  
Ermenilerin sürülmesi ve  
itlâfı aleyhinde bulunduğundan  
ikiside azlolundular. Salim  
Bey mütekaiden Yozgatta  
bulunuyor.

The Mutesarif of Yozgat and  
the Commandant de Place Salim Bey  
opposed the deportation and mas-  
sacre of the Armenians. Both were  
dismissed from their office. Salim  
Bey was retired in Yozgat. He is  
there.

23 Kanunevvel 1334.

Ardashes Taşcıyan.

December 23, 1918.

Ardashes Tashjian.



Ardashes bin Mardiros  
Taşcıyanın tekrar zaptolunan  
ifadesidir.

Daha ne gibi malûmatın  
vardır?

Yozgada bir çerek saat  
mesafede Şekerpınar civarında  
Binilitaşta Sungurlu kazası  
Ermenilerinden kadın, erkek  
olmak üzere yetmiş-seksen araba  
yükü kafilâ gelerek, yirmi-  
dört saat susuz kaldıktan sonra,  
Yozgattan üç saat mesafede  
olan Kaşçek Boğazında Mutasarrıf  
Vekili Kemal Beyin emriyle kâ-  
melin itlâf edildiklerini  
Sungurlu ahalisinden her kimden  
sorularsa, hatta Yozgat ahalisinden<sup>N</sup>people of Yozgat, they will tell  
suâl olunursa söylerler, çünkü teva-  
tiren sabittir katilleri bilen.

Yozgatta Terzi Kelekyan  
Dickran Ölümler içindeki akraba-  
sına bakmak üzere gitmesinden  
dolayı mümâileyh Kemal Bey  
haber alarak, Kelekyan Pro-

This is the second testimony  
of Ardashes Tashjian, son of Mar-  
diros, duly registered.

Have you any other informa-  
tion to give?

In the environments of Sheker-  
pınar (source of sugar), 15 minutes  
distant from Yozgat, a convoy of  
Armenian women and men from the  
district of Soungourlu on 70<sup>th</sup>/80  
ox drawn carts remained there  
for 24 hours without water, then  
brought to the gorge of Kashchek  
and completely massacred by order  
of Kemal Bey, Provisional Gover-  
nor. All the people of Soungourlu  
know this, even if you ask the  
people of Yozgat, they will tell  
you the truth because it is  
generally known. I didn't see  
them killing.

Dickran Kelekian, a tailor  
at Yozgat, went to search and find  
his relatives among the corpses.  
When Kemal Bey learned of this,  
he deported Dickran Kelekian,

testan olduğu halde, hem kendisini hem de yirmi tane Protestan erkeklerini mezkür Boğaza göndererek öldürdüğünü mütevatirdir.

Faillerini bilmem, Polis Komiser Muavini Numan ve Polis Nuuri Efendiler beraber oldukları halde mümaileyh Kemal Bey İncirli kariyesinin gayr-ı Müslim Ermeni köyünde giderek, Ermenilerin erkeklerini Mutasarrıf Cemâl Bey salimen Halebe göndermişti, fakat kariyeyi mezkûrede yetmiş hanede mukim Protestan erkek ve ailelerini mümaileyh Kemal Bey kâmilan itlâf etti.

İncirli kariyeli olup Yozgatta mukim sabık berber Misaktan sorulur ise bu cihet anlaşılır.

Yozgatın bir buçuk saat mesafesinde Paşaköyüne yakın Karabıyık kariyesi Ermenilerini

without considering that he was a Protestant, as well as twenty other Protestant men to the gorge of Kashchek and had them killed. This is a truth known by all people.

I don<sup>not</sup> know who were the murderers. Assistant Police Commissioner Newman and Police agent Nouri Efendi accompanied Kemal Bey to İncirli, an Armenian village. ~~There/there/there~~ Mutasarrıf Cemâl Bey had already deported to Aleppo the men safe and sound in good condition, but in that village there remained seventy Armenian Protestant families. Kemal Bey had the men and women seventy families massacred.

Former barber, Misak of İncirli now resident in Yozgat, can testify and give evidence.

Hoja Yacoub of Pasha village converted to İslâm all Armenians of Karabıyık village in

Paşaköylü Yakup Hoca fenalıktan kurtarmak için hepsini İslâm etti. Bu Yakup Hoca iyi bir adamdı. Ahiren vefat etti. Sonra Kemal Bey Komiser muavini Numan Efendiyle beraber oraya giderek, Yakup Hoca yetişip bunların şeran itlâf caiz olamaz demesi üzerine Kemal Bey: "Sen şerifle Müslüman ettin, ben de siyasetle keserim", demiş olduğunu ve Karabıyık kariyesinin ikiyüzelli haneden ibaret olan Ermeni erkek ve ailelerini oraya yarım saat mesafede götürüp kâmilten kesdiklerini hatta bunlar kesilirken ailelerden birini zevce almak isteyen Komiser Muavini Numan Efendiye muvafakat etmeyerek ölümü ihtiyar ettiğini Numan Efendiden işittim.

the vicinity of Pasha village, with a view to save them from massacre. Yacoub Hoja was a good man. He died <sup>recently</sup> ~~late~~. Kemal Bey went to Karabiyik village with a convoy of Armenian deportees led by the assistant Police Commissioner, Newman Efendi. Also, Hoja Yacoub arrived there, and told him: "Moslem law prohibits ~~to~~ <sup>my</sup> kill them 1)". Kemal Bey replied him: "You converted them to Moslem faith according to Islamic law, I will kill them according to my policy". And by his order two hundred fifty Armenian families of Karabiyik village were deported to half an hour's distance from the village, and he had them all massacred, men, women and children. During massacre, assistant Commissioner Newman ~~would~~ <sup>wanted to</sup> marry one of the girls to be massacred. The latter ~~was~~ never consented <sup>ed</sup> to marry him, preferring <sup>rather</sup> to die than to marry him. I heard this from Newman himself.

Oradan Köhne kariyesine giderek buradaki erkeklerden bir kısmını Mutasarrıf Cemâl Bey sürdürtmüştü, bir kısım erkeklerle cümlesinin aileleri bulunuyordu, bunlar ihtida etmekle orada kaldılar.

Halbuki Kemal Bey bunları kâmilten toplayarak Tanışbıhar çiftliğinin deresinde kestirip itlâf etmişlerdir.

Geri dönüp Yozgada geldiğinde orada mevkuf Ermenileri yüzbaşı Huseyin Fikri Boyle kışlada oturduğum sırada otuz-kırk kişiden ibaret olan bu mevkuf-ları bağlı oldukları ve arka-larında ahali kalabalıkla gittikleri halde yolda bunların itlâf olduğu tevatir edilmiş ve Dağıstanlı İsmail Onbaşı —eraberlerinde bulunmuştu.

Yozgattan dört saat mesa-fede bulunan Sarayköyünde Sa-minli Yusufun ifadesine göre —n iki yaşından yukarı olan

From there he went to the village ou Köhney. Jemal Bey had deported some of the Armenian men, their families remaining in Yozgat, benig converted to the Moslem faith, they remained there.

Kemal Bey had all the men gathered and massacred in the val-ley of Tanishlar Chiftlighi. He had them annihilated.

When he returned to Yozgat, Armenians who were there, were in the custody of Captain/ Husein Fikri Bey. When I was in the barracks, I saw 30<sup>or</sup>40 of the detainees tied toge-ther and accompanied by a mob. Later rumors were heard that they were massacred on their way of exile and Captain Dagistanli İs-mail Bey was supervisor with his gang.

In the vicinity of Sarai vil-lage, four hours distant from Yoz-gat, Armenian boys above twelve years of age and older males were



çocuklar ve erkekler oradan yarım saat mesafede bir inde mümaileyh Kemal Bey merhum Yusuf, ve Ebelerin Rıza, ve Osman, Eli Tekesi Şeho, Hacı Nuri Efendinin akrabasından ismini hatırlamadığım bir şahıs cete başı olduğu hasebiyle kendileri ve adamları tarafından itlâf edildiklerini merhum Yusufun Yözgatta On Bucaklı Şah İsmaille naklederken işittim.

Bir müddet sonra mümaileyh Kemal Bey işten el cektirildiği halde Muhasebeci Vehbi Beyin hanesinde onyedı gün daha kaldı.

Yozgada mutasarrıf Sivas mektupçusu Ata Bey geldi, itlâftan müstesna tutulan bütün aileleri köylere tevzi etmiş olduğu halde Ata Bey bunları kasabaya getirdi.

Kemal Bey Yozgada avdet ettiğinde ihtida edip gitmiş

massacred according to the test<sup>imony</sup> of Youssouf of Salmin at ~~an~~ <sup>a</sup> half hour's distance from Sarai village, by order of Kemal Bey. Youssouf and I heard that Ebelerin Rıza, Shikho of Osman Eli Tekke, and a relative of Haji Nouri Efendi, whose name I don't <sup>not</sup> remember, being a chete-gang leader, were in charge of the massacre. I heard this from Youssouf, who reported this in Yozgat to Bouchakli Shah.

A while latter, Kemal Bey was dismissed. He remained 17 days at the home of the Chief Accountant Vehbi Bey.

Ata Bey, Secretary of Sivas province, came to Yozgat as Mutasarîf. Kemal Bey had distributed in the villages Armenian families, who had survived the massacre. Ata Bey brought them back to Yozgat.

When Kemal Bey arrived in Yozgat and got possession of his

ve yahut öyle kalmış çocuk ve kızları toplayıp kâmelânen itlâf ettiği halde Ankarada Karaoğlu civarında mukim Keserekyan yanında hemşiresi Heleni itlâftan kurtulup gelmişti, o halı mezbureden işittim.

Kemal Bey ne kadar Ermeni zükür ve aileleri kestirmiş ise, üryan bir hale koyarak bütün eşya, elbise ve nukudunu toplayıp almıştır, kesilen mahalde tesadüf eden Müslümanlar esna-i kıtalda yanlışlığa uğramak için el silah atarak baltalarla itlâf etmiştir. Bunlardan cem olunan elbise ve mevcutlarını ve hatta ekmeklerini Osmanpaşa Tekkesi camiine koyarlar sonra emval-ı metruke komisyonuna eşya-i mezkûreyi seksen-doksan arabada götürürler Yozgatta kanlı ve Kansız gömlekler ve kâffe-i eşyayı tellallar vasıtasıyla yolsuz bir surette sattılar,

office or he remained as he was out of his office. I learned that he collected children and girls, and had them all massacred. Keserikian, a resident at Karaoğlu, a suburb of Ankara, saved his niece, Helen. I heard this from him.

Kemal Bey had collected from those and their families who were massacred all kinds of objects, clothes and money, left them nude, then in order to distinguish Moslems from Armenians during the massacres, they had been given instructions to wear white turbans on their heads to avoid being killed by accident or error. Others sounded a whistle and shot guns three times to give the signal for massacre with axes. The clothes collected from the victims and every thing available, even their food supplies, were brought and put in the Mosque of Osman Pasha Tekke, then in 80-90 carriages were delivered to the

ayakkabılarında, elbiselerinde bazanda para da çıkmıştı Ermeni ahali Yozgatta toplandığı sırada Yozgatta Buzlayalı Mehmet ve Ceritzade Hasan Efendi ve Feyaz Bey ve Münir Toklu Ethem ve Kebapçı Hacı Mahmut Efendi ve Eytam Müdürü Mehmet Efendi ve Tevfikzade Abdullah Efendi ve Polis Nuri ve Ebelerin Ramazan ve isimleri hatırlamadığım daha bir takım ahali.

ahalinin emval-ı mevcudlerini yağma ettiler bu keyfiyeti Yozgatta Yozgatta Başçavuşzade Behçet Efendi ve avukat Kara Mustafa Efendi ve Mevki Kumandanı sabıka Salim Bey bilirler. Oradaki Ermenilerden kalmış olanlar dahi bilirler.

Commission of "Abandoned Goods." Town cryers in Yozgat announced the unlawful sale of shirts and effects soiled with blood or without blood, as well as all kinds of shoes and clothes, even sometimes these clothes were contained hidden money. When Armenians in Yozfat were arrested, Buzlayalı Mehmed and Jeridzade Hasan Efendi and Feyaz Bey, and Mounir Toklu Edhom and Kebabji Vesel and the Director of orphans Mehmed Efendi, and Tevfikzade Abdullah Efendi, and Police Nouri, and Ebelerin Ramazan and others whose names I don't remember, looted Armenian possessions and the abandoned goods. This matter is well known in Yozgat by Behjet Efendi, Bash-chavoushzade, a lawyer Kara Mustafa Efendi and Salim Bey, former Commandant de Place, as well as all Armenian survivors who are in Yozgat.

Emval-ı metruke Komisyonu âzasından olup Dersaadette bulunan ve hangi mahallede ikamet ettiği malûm olmayan Nazif Bey Yozgat Ermeni kilisesinin ne kadar zi kıymet eşyası var ise dörtte üçü mümaileyhin nezdinde kalmıştır. Mümaileyh Yozgat çarşısında bir oda tutuyordu, Komisyon mahallinden ayrı idi.

Kör Nalbendin torunu ondört yaşında ismini bilmediğim bir Ermeni kızına bir iskarpin yaptırmak üzere bana kösele kesdirirken odasında köseli verdiği sırada kilisenin eşyasının orada görmüştüm.

Kendisi altmış beş yaşında olduğu halde o kıza tecavüz etmişti, bunların kendisinden istizahi lâzımdır.

24 Kanunuevvel 1334.

Ardashes Tashjian

An official of the Commission of "Abandoned Goods", Nazif Bey, now resident at İstanbul, whose exact address I ~~don't~~<sup>not</sup> know, pillaged the valuables of the Armenian church of Yozgat in a proportion of 3/4 for himself. He kept a room in the market of Yozgat. This room was other than the place chosen by the Commission.

He came to ask me to make shoes for an Armenian girl of 14 years of age, whose name I ~~don't~~<sup>not</sup> remember. She was the grand daughter of Kör (Blind) Nalband. When he gave me the leather in his room, I saw the sacred objects of the church, therein.

He was sixty five years old and married the little girl of fourteen. He has to explain this.

December 24, 1918.

Ardashes Tashjian



Dec. 16, 1918

Testimony of Kemal Bey

Part II

December 16, 1918.

Maznun Kemal Beyin  
tekrar zabtedilmiş  
olan ifadesidir.  
16 Kanunuevvel 334.

Again these are the  
minutes of the accused  
Kemal Bey's statements.  
December 16, 1918.

S.- Bogazlıyan kazasıyle  
hudut olan kazalar hangılardır? Q.- Which are the actual coun-  
ties of the boarders of Boghazlian?

C.- Mevcut Avanos, Akdağmadeni kazalarıyle Kayseri livasıdır. R.- The actual counties of  
boardering Boghazlian are: Avanos,  
Akdaghamden, the district of Kay-  
seri.

S.- Mevcut Avanos, Ak-  
dağmadeni kazaları nereye R.- Upon which district are  
dependent the actual counties of  
merbuttur? Avanos and Akdaghamden?

C. Mevcut Avanos kaza-  
ları Kırşehir livasına Ak- R.- The county of Avanos is  
dependent upon  
dağmadeni kazasında Yozgat Kirshehir district,  
and the county of Akdaghamden  
livasına tab'idir. is dependent upon Yozgat district.

S.- Yozgat mutasarrıflığı  
vekâletinde beş ~~Agustos~~ <sup>well</sup> ~~tari-~~  
~~hinden Eylül~~ ~~gayesine~~ ~~kadar~~  
hangi tarihten hangi tarihe  
kadar bulundunuz? Q.- When ~~have~~ you ~~been~~ ap-  
pointed provisional Mutesarif  
of Yozgat? What date?

C.- Yozgat Mutasarrıflığı vekâletinde beş Ağustos tarihinden Eylül gayerine kadar bulundum.

R.- I was provisional Mutesarif of Yozgat from August 5, to the end of September.

S.- Yozat merkez kazası ve kasabası Ermenileri kaç nüfusdan ibaret idid?

Q.- How many Armenians were in the central district and the vicinity of Yozgat?

C. Miktarı hakikisini tahatur edemiyorum, yedi-sekiz bin nüfus-u olduğunu zannedirim.

R. I don<sup>not</sup>~~ot~~ remember the number. I think there were seven or eight thousand Armenians.

S.- Yozgat kazası Ermenileri kimler vasıtasıyla nereye nakl tehcir olundu? Bu tehcir emr-i ne yolda kimin tarafından verilmişti?

Q.- Who deported the Armenians of Yozgat? Where they were deported? Who gave the order of deportation? Where did the order come from?

C.- Bendeniz Yozgata geldiğimde ilk sevkıyatın jandarma (August 6, 1915), Tefvik Bey, Genmarifetiyle ve Sivas tarikiyle yapıldığını jandarma tabur kumandanı Tefvik Bey söylemiş idi. Zamanı acizde yapılan tehcir merkez-i livada jandarma ta2 bur kumandanı ve nahiyelerde nahiye müdüran-ı tarafından

R.- When I arrived to Yozgat the deportation of the first convoy of the Armenians of Yozgat district was carried out by the gendarmes, via Sivas. When I was provisional mutesarif of Yozgat an order issued by the Vali of Ankara

vilâyetten talaki ve aynen  
tebliğ edilen emir mucibince  
Der Zora sevkedilmiştir.

S.- Yozgat kazasının  
yedi-sekizbin Ermeni nüfu-  
sunun ne mikdarı sizin zama-  
nınızda ve ne mikdarı sele-  
finiz zamanında tehcir olunup  
tehcire mütealluk ne gibi evrak  
ve vesaikiniz vardır?

C.- Gerek zamanı acizede  
ve gerek selefim zamanında  
tehcir edilen Ermenilerin  
mikdarı hatır-ı acizede degil-  
dir, zannederim ~~bulunmayacak~~  
bulunmayacak aksam ise yalnız  
okunduktan sonra yakılması  
emir olundugundan bittabi  
mevcut olmadan evamirdir.

S.- Beyan ettiğiniz emir-  
lerin okunduktan sonra yakıl-

recommended to deport to Der Zor  
the Armenians of the central dis-  
trict by care of the Gendarmerie  
Commander and those of the villages  
by care of mudirs. (governors).

R.- How many of seven or eight  
thousand Armenians of Yozgat dis-  
trict were deported when you were  
provisional Mutesarif and how many  
of them by your predecessor? What  
kind of documents and papers do  
you have concerning the deporta-  
tions?

R.- I ~~don't~~<sup>not</sup> remember the num-  
ber of the Armenians who were de-  
ported during my functions or of  
my predecessor. I think the docu-  
ments concerning the deportation  
are partly preserved in Yozgat.  
As to the documents which cannot  
be found there, were only those  
orders which had to be burned down  
after having them read by order  
of the sender.

Q. Who gave you order to you  
to burn down the orders after

masını kim emir etmiştir?

having them read, of which you revealed the existence?

C.- Vilâyetinin Dahiliye Nezaretinin iş'arına atfen emr-i idi.

R.- These supplementary orders were dispatched by the Minister of Internal Affairs.

S.- Bu evamir şifreli yoksa acıkmı geliyordu?

Q.- These supplementary orders were dispatched open or coded?

C.- Tehcir hakkında Hükûmetin verdiği emirler umumiyetle şifreli idi.

R.- The orders concerning deportations dispatched by the Government were all coded.

S.-Yozgat kazasından zamanında sevkolunan Ermenilerin makdarını tehattur etmediğin ile yokarıda cevabınızda beyan olunanlar selefiniz zamanında sevkedilenlerden ziyademi idi?

Q.- You answered that you ~~don't~~ <sup>not</sup> remember the number of the Armenians who were deported when you were mutesarif of Yozgat. Was the number you deported more than those Armenians your predecessor deported?

C.- Nahiyelelerden selefi acize zamanında sevkıyat olduğundan zamanı acizede daha ziyade idi.

R.- The Armenians deported during my office were more than those deported by my predecessor, because he did not deport the Armenians of the villages.

S.- Yozgadin kaç nahiyesi vardır? İsimleri nedir? Tehcir esnasında nahiyelelerde müdür

Q. How many counties ~~and~~ <sup>did</sup> Yozgat? <sup>How?</sup> What are their names? Who were the governors of the counties



kimler idi? Müdürden başka polis ve jandarma çavuşu ve onbaşı varmı idi? Var ise, isimleri ne idi?

C.-Yozgadın iki nahiyesi vardır, birisi Kızıl Koca, diğeri Sorgundur. Tehcir esnasında Kızıl Kocada müdür olan zatın ismi Osman Bey isede, diğerinin ismini tahatür edemiyorum. Ben-denizin zamanında Sorgun nahiyesi müdür-ü istifa ettiğinden yerine vekâleten Yozgat Polis Komiseri Sadık Efendi tayin edilmiş. Kızıl Koca nahiyesinde yine müdür muavenet için polis komiserlerinden Numan Efendi izan edilmişdi.

S.-Merkez nahiyelerin teh-cir işlerin komiser Sadık ve Numan Efendilermi muavenet et-tiler?

C.-Mezkûr iki nahiye-nin tehcirini Sorgunda Sadık Efendi, Kızıl Koca'da nahiye müdürü ile

during deportation? Were there policemen and gendarme Chavoushes and caporals? If there were, what are their names?

R.- Yozgat had two districts: Kizil Koja and Sorgoun. During deportation the governor of Kizil Koja was Isman Bey, I don't know the name of the other.

When I was in office, the Chief of Sorgoun had resigned. He has deisgnated a locum-tenens: Gendarmerie Commander ~~Neuman~~/~~Neuman~~ Sadik Efendi of Yozgat, Gen-darmerie Commander Neuman Efendi was sent to Kizil Koja as as as-sistant.

Q.-Did Gendarmerie Commanders Sadik and Neuman help to carry out deportation in the counties?

R.- Sadik and Neuman helped to carry out deportation in the above mentioned counties, Sorgoun and

beraber Numan Efendi ifa ettiler. Kizil Koğa.

S.-Nefsi Yozgatta kaç  
Ermeni hanesi ve dükkanı var  
idi?

Q.- How many Armenian houses  
and shops were there in Yozgat?

C.- Mikdarını hatırlamıyo-  
rum, Efendim, takriben üçyüz-  
elli hane ~~y~~ ile yüz düken  
vardır.

R.- I don<sup>not</sup> remember the num-  
ber. There were about three hun-  
dred fifty houses and one hundred  
shops in Yozgat.

S.-Gerek Yozgatta ve gerek  
Boğazlıyan kazalarında tehciden  
istina edilmiş Ermenileri kaldımı?  
Kalmış ise, miktarları ne idi  
ve esbabı istisnaları ne idi?

Q.-Were there any Armenians  
in Yozgat and Boghazlian exempted  
from deportation? If yes, what  
was the number and the reasons?

C.-Gerek Yozgat ve gerek  
Boğazlıyan'da tehcir edilmeyerek  
kurayı islâmiyeye tevzi suretiyle  
kalmış bir çok Ermeni mevcut  
isede, miktarını bilmiyorum,  
fakat kalan mikdar tehcir edi-  
len miktarından fazladır zanne-  
derim.

R.-There were Armenians in  
Yozgat as well as in Boghazlian  
who were not deported. They were  
distributed in Moslem villages. I  
don<sup>not</sup> remember the number. I think  
the number of those who remained  
was more than the number of those  
who were deported.

S.- Ol suretle kalan kısmı  
zükürümü? enasımı? sübyanımı? idi-  
ler ve bunları tehciden ne se-  
bebe mebni istisna ettiniz?

Q.- Those who were exempted  
from deportation, were they men,  
women or children? Why did you  
exempted them?

C.- Zükürdende kalan kısmı mevcut isede, en ziyade enas ve sübyandır. Bunların kura-i İslâmiyede iskânlarına Dahiliye Nezaretinin iş'arına atfen yine vilâyet emir vermişti.

CR.- There are some men, but the majority are women and children. The Minister of Internal Affairs had sent order to Governors to distribute them in Moslem villages.

S.-Yüzden kaç nisbetinde kura-i İslâmiye tevzi edilmiştir?

Q.- In what percentage they were distributed in Moslem villages?

C.- Emir üzre beş nisbetinde isede, harfiyen tatbik edilememiş, gayrı muntazam surette kura-i İslâmiyeye Ermeniler sevk edilmiştir.

R.- The order was five per cent, but this proportion was not verbatim, there were arrangements. Armenians were deported to Moslem villages otherwise.

S.- Emr-i vakıın harfiyen me edilmesinin sebeb-i nedir?

Q.- What is the reason that the order was not carried out verbatim?

C.-Kurada hane bulunmaması idi, birde Ermenilerinkuraya sevkeden jandarmaların tamamıyla vazifelerini ifa edemediklerinden bir kariyede iskân edilen Ermenilerin kendi kendilerini arzu ve intihap ettikleri kuraya gitmeleridir.

R.- There were not houses enough in villages; the gendarmes who were charged to deport them, did not accomplish their duties adequately. The Armenians of a village wished to be in the village of their own choice.

S. Yozgat mutasarrıflığı  
vekâletinden sebep-i infikâkı-  
nız ne idi?

Q.- For what reason you left  
your office at Yozgat?

C.- Asıl mutasarrıfın vu-  
rudu üzerine infikâk ettim.

R.- I left Yozgat when the  
main Mutesarif arrived there.

S.- Oradan nereye mumur  
oldunuz?

Q.-Where you were appointed  
from there?

tekrar/  
C.- Yozgattan/Bogazlıyana  
kaymakamlığına avdet ettim.

R.- Again from Yozgat I was  
appointed Kaymakam of Boghazlian.

S.- Akdagmadeni kazası  
Ermeni nüfusun mikdarı ne idi?

Q.-How many Armenians were  
in Akdaghmaden?

C.- Akdagmadeni kazasının  
Ermeni nüfusun tahminen üçbin  
kadar dır.

R.- The number of the Armenians  
in Akdaghmaden were about three  
thousand.

S.-Merkez-i kazanın kaç  
nahiyesi vardır? İsimleri nedir?  
Tehcir esnasında müdürleri kim-  
ler idi?

CQ.-How many counties has  
the central district? What are their  
names? Who were the müdirs during  
deportation?

C.- Merkez kazanın kaç  
nahiyesi olduğunu bilmiyorum,  
yalnız Mağara nahiyesi mevcut  
olduğunu biliyor isemde, müdü-  
rün ismini tahatur edemiyorum.

R.- I don't <sup>not</sup> know how many  
counties has the central district.  
I know that there is a county  
called Maghara, but I don't <sup>not</sup> know  
the name of the Mudir.



S.- Tehcir esnasında Akdağ  
kazası kaymakam-ı kim idi?

Q.- Who was the Kaymakam of  
Akdaghmaden during deportatin?

C.-Akdağ kazası kaymakam-ı  
Hafız Huseyin Efendi idi.

R.- The name of the Kaymakam  
of Akdaghmaden was Husein Efendi.

16 Kanunuevvel 334.

December 16, 1918.

Kemal.

(Signed): Kemal.

Heyet-i Tahkikiye Reisi:

President of the Inquiry

Mazhar.

Commissidn:

(Signed): Mazhar.

Dec, 25, 1918

Testimony of Eugenie Varvarian

Transliteration

English Translation

Yozgadın Köseoğlu mahal-  
lesinden olup İstanbul'da Gedik-  
paşada Divan-ı Âli mahallesinde  
Külhan Sokağı 12 numaralı hane'  
de müsteciren sakin Mercan  
Mektebi Sultanisi muallimlerin-  
den 31 yaşında Vahan Efendi ben  
Sarkis Varvaryanın heyet-i  
tahkikiyeye bilmüraca'a verdiği  
ifadede kendisinin fecayiye  
dair deyilen müşahedatı yok  
isede, vukuat zamanında Yoz-  
gatta bulunarak bir çok taad-  
diyat ve taarruzata mûruz kalmış  
olan hemşirezadesi Öjeni Var-  
varyan hanımın meşhudat ve ma-  
lûmatı ve keزالık Yozgattan  
gelmiş olan Taşçıyan Arşaluys  
Ağanın meşhudat ve malûmatı  
istima olacak hakikat zahire  
çıkarılmasının ifade ve beyan  
eylemiştir.

23 Kânunuevvel 1334.

Vahan Efendi, son of Sarkis  
Varvarian, 31 years old, teacher  
at Merjan Sultanie College, te-  
nant at 12 Kulhan Street, Divani  
Ali ward, Gedik Pasha, İstanbul,  
originally from Köseoğlu ward of  
Yozgat; although he is not a  
witness to testify about the atro-  
cities, however, he made a request  
to the Inquiry Commission to hold  
~~inquiries~~ hearings for the testi-  
mony and information of his niece  
Eugenie Varvarian, now resident  
at his apartment, as she was an  
eyewitness <sup>to</sup> of the oppressions  
and atrocities committed against  
the Armenians of Yozgat district.  
Also the testimony and information  
of Arshalouis Agha Tashjian, who  
just arrived from Yozgat <sup>at</sup> to Is-  
tanbul in order to bring evidence  
and shed light concerning the truth  
of atrocities committed there in  
the Yozgat district.

December 23, 1918.



Anasıl Yozgat kasabasının  
Tuzkaya mahallesinden olup  
mümaileyh muallim Vahan Efen-  
dinin hanesinde mukime on sekiz  
yaşında Öjeni bint Ğazarosualı-  
naalınan ifadesidir:

23 Kânunuevvel 334.

S.-Yozgat Ermenilerinin  
tehcir olundukları esnada  
vukua gelen kâffe-i ahvâl  
hakkında gördüğün, bildiğin  
neden ibaret ise, beyan eder-  
misin?

C.- 331 senesi Temmuzunda  
idi. Yozgat Mutasarrıf-ı bulunan  
ve ismi malûmum olmayan bir zat  
Ermeni erkeklerinden mürekkep  
ve efradının miktarını tahmin  
edemediğim bir katile sevketti.  
Fakat bu Mutasarrıf bu sevk  
muamelesinin aleyhinde buluna-  
rak, ben bunlara Osmanlı top-  
rağında fenalık edemem diyordu.  
Bu cihetle kendisini azlettiler.  
Yerine vekâleten Boğazlıyan  
Kaymakamı Kemal Bey geldi.

This is the basic deposition  
of Eugenie, daughter of Ghazaros,  
resident at the home of her uncle  
Prof. Vahan Efendi, originally  
from Tuzkaya ward, Yozgat town,  
registered:

December 23, 1918.

Can you give information about  
what you know, what you saw con-  
cerning the events which took  
place during the deportations of  
the Armenians of Yozgat?

R.- It was July 1915. The Mute-  
sarif 1) of Yozgat, whose name I  
don't <sup>not</sup> remember, deported a convoy  
of Armenian~~s~~ men, whose exact num-  
ber 2) I cannot remember. However,  
the Mutesarif made a statement  
concerning the execution of the  
deportation: "I cannot do any  
prejudice or atrocity to them in  
the Ottoman territory". For this  
reason he was dismissed from his  
office. He was replaced by Kemal  
Bey, Provisional Mutesarif.

Yozgatlı Uzun Hacının  
 Şükrü ve Ceritzade Hasan ve  
 jandarma onbaşı İbrahimi  
 çetebaşı tayin etti. Bunların  
 bir de refakatını gerek yerli  
 ve gerek Boğazlıyan ve kari-  
 yeler ahali-i İslâmiyesinden  
 belki ikiyüz kişi toplatılarak  
 cümlesi mümaileyh Kemal Bey  
 tarafından mavzer tüfenklerle  
 teslim olunmuştu. Kemal Bey de  
 Yozgatta müsellâhen dolaşıyor  
 ve çetelere: "Sizi ananız bu gün  
 için doğurmuştur", diyerek  
 çoğalmalarını teşvik ediyordu,  
 kâffesi atlı idiler.

Dükkânlardan ve hanelerden  
 oniki yaşından yukarı olan  
 Ermeni erkeklerini jandarma-  
 ların da yardımıyla toplayarak  
 Hükûmet tevkifhanelere ve bo-  
 drumlara hapsettiler. Dükkânlar  
 sahiplerinden jandarmalar  
 vasıtasıyla alınan anahtarlarla

Shukri, brother of Ouzoun  
 Haji of Yozgat and Jeridzade Ha-  
 san, and gendarmerie sergeant  
 İbrahim were appointed by him  
 as chete-gang leaders. From among  
 the Moslem people of the town, as  
 well as from Boghazlian and vil-  
 lages 200-300 individuals were  
 gathered and joined the gang-  
 leaders, Kemal Bey armed them,  
 giving them rifles. With his wea-  
 pons he himself was going round  
 the streets of Yozgat and shou-  
 ting to chete-gangs: "Your mothers  
 gave you birth for today", with  
 such slogans he encouraged them  
 to join and raise their number.  
 They were all on horse-back.

With the assistance of the  
 gendarmes, collecting from stores  
 and houses, the Armenian males,  
 over twelve years old, they ~~got~~ <sup>took</sup>  
 them into custody in the basements  
 of the buildings and governmental  
 houses of detention. Gendarmes  
 took away keys from store owners

kapatıldı. Bu Ermenileri üç-  
dört katile olarak yola çıkar-  
dılar, sonra Ermeni karılarının  
sürüleceğini isimleri bilmedi-  
ğim her mahalle tellalları  
vasıtasıyla ilân ettiler. Bunun  
üzerine kadınlar da hazırlanarak  
bizim Tuzkaya mahallesinde bu-  
lunan Ermeni kadınlarını çocuk-  
larıyla beraber yola çıkardılar  
bunları sevk memuriyetinde  
Yozgatlı Divanın Oğlu Hamdi  
ve Boztepeli Mehmet ve Yozgadın  
Kuruçeşme mahallesinden Feyaz  
yalnız revolverle müsellâh  
oldukları hâlde, hanelerimizden  
bizi aldılar, Yozgada oniki saat  
mesafede bulunan Keller köyüne  
kadar götürün Mutasarrıf Vekili  
Kemal Bey ve Yozgatlı Çitoğlu  
Polis Komiseri Numan Efendi  
yanlarında mavzer tüfenkleriyle  
silâhlı ve atlı bir çok başı  
bozuklardı. Kariye-i mezkûrede  
gündüzünüçimizde ne kadar güzel  
kadın ve kız varsa, toplayıp

and locked them<sup>up</sup>. These Armenians  
were deported in three four con-  
voys. Then by order of the autho-  
rity, town-cryers, whose names I  
~~don't~~<sup>not</sup> know, announced everywhere  
that Armenian women also will be  
deported. Upon this, women made  
preparations. Women and children  
of Tuzkaya ward of Yozgat were  
gathered. I was among them in  
the convoy. They deported us.  
Divaninoğlu Hamdi of Yozgat and  
Boztepeli Mehmed and Feyaz of Kou-  
rouchesme ward of Yozgat, all three  
armed with revolvers got us out  
of the houses. The Provisional  
Mutesarif of Yozgat Kemal Bey ac-  
companied us to Keller 12 hours  
distant from Yozgat, and Newman  
Chitoglu/  
Efendi/of Yozgat as police com-  
missioner, were followed by many  
irregulars armed with rifles and  
were on horseback. Once in Kel-  
ler, at daylight, Kemal Bey gave  
the order to his associates, sa-  
ying: "Collect all beautiful girls



bana getiriniz, oynatalım",  
 diyerek refiklerine emir  
 verdi, onlar da topladılar,  
 iki-üç saat kadar oynattılar.  
 Çalgıcılar Kör Meryem ve Ata-  
 nin Oğlu elli-altmış yaşlarında  
 Aleksan varsada, bunlara çal-  
 dırmışlar. Keller kariyesi yanında  
 "Siz Müslüman olacaksınız",  
 diyerek bize diz çöktürdüler.  
 Her birimiz de ne kadar para  
 ve üzerimizde gömlekten başka  
 bulunan eşyayı kâmilten aldılar.

Kemal Bey bizi soyuyordu,  
 para ve eşya ve mücevherat ve  
 küpe gibi şeyleri o söylediğim  
 Numan toplayıp aldı. Aldıkları  
 paranın miktarını tayin edemem,  
 fakat külliyeti idi. Paraların  
 bir kısmını yutmuştuk. Ondan  
 sonra düdük çalındı, kurulan  
 pusulalardan üzerimize balta-  
 riyle bıçaklarla hücum ettiler,  
 hepsini gözümün öynünde kestiler,  
 ben~~de~~ de başımdan balta ve bı-  
 çakla vurulmuş yer~~e~~ düşmüştüm.

and bring them here to make them  
 dance". They gathered them, for-  
 ced them to dance about ~~for~~ two-<sup>or</sup>  
 three hours. Although fiddlers  
 as Kör Merian and Abanoğlu ~~50/60~~  
<sup>such</sup> who were 50 or 60 years old, and Alexan were there, <sup>they</sup>  
 refused to play. In the vicinity  
 of Keller, they told us: " You  
 have to embrace the Moslem faith".  
 They ordered us to kneel down.  
 They stripped us, took our money  
 and clothes, leaving us with our  
 shirts.

Kemal Bey looted us, taking  
 money, effects, jewels and ear-  
 rings and so on. Newman collected  
 money, how much I don't <sup>not</sup> know, but  
 we all had previously swallowed  
 gold pieces and diamonds. Then a  
 whistle gave the signal. They at-  
 tacked us with axes, daggers, ac-  
 cording to orders. They killed  
 them all before my eyes. I was  
 found~~ed~~ on my head with an axe  
 and dagger. They believed that I  
 was dead, then Kör Hamdi came from

Beni ölmüş zannettiler, sonra köyünün ismini bilmediğim Kör Hamdi namında birisi geldi, ölüleri yokladı, beni diri bulunca, köyündeki hanesine götürdü.

Üç gün sonra Kemal Bey sağ ~~kalmış~~ Three days ~~after~~ later Kemal kalmış kadınların da toplayıp vurulmasını emiretmiş. Aradılar beni buldular, jandarma onbaşı beni aldı götürceği sırada kesm beni ~~gözetmes~~mesini rica ettim. İnsafa geldi, seni haneme götürüğüm, aileme evlad olunuz, dedi ve bir buçuk sene kadar hanesinde kaldım, fakat benim fistanımda bağlı yetmiş lira vardı. Kemal Bey onları yokladığı esnada bulundu, ben kurtuluyorum fikriyle paralarımı haber verdim ve paralarımı Kemal Bey bizzat benden aldı. Kesilmeden kurtulanlar meyanında Manika Hulunaryan namında bir kadın vardı. Bu kadın şimdi Gedikpaşada ÇıkmaZ sokakta

a village, I don't <sup>not</sup> know the name, searched for money among the corpses; he found me alive, took me to his village home.

Bey ordered ~~to collect~~ all those women survivors <sup>he collected and</sup> to ~~kill~~ them. They searched all over and found me. A gendarme sergeant would take me. I begged him not to kill me. He had mercy. "I will take you to my home, you will be the daughter of my family", he <sup>said</sup> ~~told~~. And I was at his home a year and half, but I had seventy Turkish pounds stiched in my skirt. Kemal Bey tried to search, <sup>me</sup> I was afraid, and showed him where the amount was stiched. Kemal Bey took the money. Among the survivor there was a woman, called Mrs. Mannig Haulounarian. This woman is now resident at Gedik Pasha, <sup>ÇıkmaZ</sup> street, Constantinople, there is no man with

oturur. Yanında erkek kimse yoktur. Ben İbrahim'in hanesinde bir buçuk sene kaldım. Bir gece merhumun oğlu yirmidört yaşında Ali benim ırzıma geçmek istedi. Bırakmadım, oradan savuşup Yozgatta pazar mahallesinde Ermeni Samara Oğlunun hanesinde oturan kız kardeşim Gül kızın yanına gittim, bundan bir ay evvel Gül kız vefat etti. Merhum İbrahim benim ırzıma geçmemişse de, İncirli kariyesinden olup Yozgatta ismini bilmediğim Rumlardan birisinin hanesinde oturan Gazarosyanın gelini ve isimlerini bilmediğim sakladıkları ve daha sekiz kadar Ermeni kadınlarını hem İbrahim hem de Yasdaklı köyündeki delikanlıları çağırarak, kullanıyorlardı. Merhum İbrahim'in oğlu Ali İncirli kariyesinden Gülizar isminde bir kızı ni-kâhla alarak bir sene kadar izdivacı altında tuttu, sonra

her. I was at the home of İbrahim a year and half. His son Ali, 24 years old, tried to rape me at night. I resisted. I went to Gül (Rose) niece of my sister, resident at the Armenian market Samara. Rose died a month ago. İbrahim did not rape me, but a man of İncirli village, I don't<sup>not</sup> know his name...

The daughter-in-law of Gazarosian resident at the home of a Greek of İncirli village, in Yozgat, I don't<sup>not</sup> know his name, and those hidden and eight Armenian women, were used not only by İbrahim, but also by young men whom he used to call from Yasdagh village. Ali, son of above mentioned İbrahim, who married Gulizar of İncirli kept her about one year, then he abandoned her, but I don't<sup>not</sup> know where she went then. When I was



bıraktı, mezkûrenin oradan  
nereye gittiğini bilmem. Ben  
Yozgatta iken orada emval-ı  
metruke Komisyonu reisi Savfet  
Bey ve âzalarından Nazif ve Haydar  
ve Lütfi Beylerdi. Savfet Bey  
Dersaadette Göztepe'de Cadde-  
bostanında zift fabrikası yanın-  
da mukim Kozan Mutasarrıf-ı  
sabıkıdır, bunlar Ermenilerin  
bütün dükkânlarını açıp malla-  
rını satmak, paralarını toplay-  
ıp almak gibi muamelede bulun-  
dular. Savfet Bey beni Yozgat-  
tan güya evlad suretiyletiyle  
hanesine aldı. Yatacak bir  
yorgan Nazif Beyden istedim.  
Siz depodaki eşyaya bakınız,  
yorganları görüp alabilirsiniz,  
dedi, bende Nazif Beyle beraber  
depoya gittim, yorganımızı tanı-  
yıp aldım, fakat Ermeniler bunda  
para saklamışlardır, diyerek  
söktürmüş derununda koymuş  
olduğunuz yetmiş lirayı bizzat  
almıştır. Yozgatta sekiz on

in Yozgat, the President of the  
Commission of Abandoned Goods,  
Savfet Bey, and members Nazif Bey,  
Haydar Bey and Loutfi Bey, in Cons-  
tantinople, was resident at Göz  
Tepe Jare Garden in the neighbour-  
hood of the factory Zif, the for-  
mer mutesarif of Kozan. They o-  
pened all the stores of the Arme-  
nians and sold their possessions.  
They collected the money ~~and~~ for  
themselves. Savfet Bey took me  
as an adopted daughter. I asked  
for a quilted cover from Nazif  
Bey. He told me: "Look at the  
furniture; you may chose a quil-  
ted cover". I went to the store  
with Nazif Bey. I recognized our  
quilted cover and took it, but  
he said: "Armenians have hidden  
money in quilted covers"; he had  
them ripped open and took away  
seventy Turkish pounds that we  
had hidden in it. At Yozgat he  
took 8-10 Armenian girls in order  
to exploit them. He kept them for

kadar kız, familya olmak üzere alır ve bir müddet tuttuktan sonra bırakıp diğerini alırdı. Hatta akrabamdan Garabed Yesayanın <sup>48</sup>Viktorun kızı Saten namıdiğer Naciye'yi dahi sekiz ay tuttuktan sonra bıraktı.

Şimdiki halde Mezbure Yozgattatır. Ben Savfet Beyin hanesinde bulunduğum sırada paralarımızın saklı olduğu yerleri göstermekliğim için sıkıştırdı. Hanemize beraber gittik bir dolabımızda yirmibeş kramıç altını ve beş adet beşbirlik ve iki elli adet lira ve kırma dört çift gümüş bilezik ve iki adet elmas yüzük ve 8-10 tane altından mamûl ufak yüzük saklıydı. Bunları kâmilan aldı, ceplerine koydu. Bunları aldığı vakit yanında kimse bulundurmadı. Bu hanemizde dışarıdan gelme muhacir İslâma kadınları vardı, isimlerini bilmem. Savfet Bey'in beni bu haneye sok-

a while, then he abandoned them and took others, even my relatives, Victor, daughter of Garabed Yesayan, Saten, daughter of Viktor. He kept the other one Najie, for eight months and abandoned her.

Actually he is in Yozfat.

When I was at the home of Savfet Bey, he bothered me to reveal to him where our money was hidden. He took me to our house. There were in one of our cabinets 25 gold pounds, five series of five gold pounds, four pairs of silver bracelets and two pairs of rings? All these were hidden in our house. He took them all and put them in his pockets. ~~They/We~~ He did not allow any other to come with us. There were in our house Moslem women refugees, I <sup>not</sup> ~~don't~~ know their names. They saw ~~y~~ me with Savfet Bey when coming in our house. He told me : "All these belong to you", and he tried to convince me and sold these valuables.

tuğunu onlar gördüler. "Bu paralar hep senindir", diyerek beni kandırdı ve taşıttırdı.

Ankaraya kadar beraber geldik. O vakita ~~kadar~~ deyim bütün paraları ben taşıdım. Ankara'da ismini bilmediğim bir handa bir gece kaldık. Gece vakti Savfet Bey başımın ucuna geldi. Ben namusuma dokunacaktır diye telaş edip bağırmaya başladım, fakat "hancılar çalları", diyerek paraları kâmilenden benden aldı.

Oradan Dersaadete gelip Göztepedeki hanesinde oturuyorduk. Altınların kâffesini bozdu-rup kızlarına altın bilezik ve elmas küpe yaptırttı.

Yüz kadar şal ve bir çok yağ ve dakik gibi şeyler de hanesine getirmişti.

Beş ay kadar mümaileyhin hanesinde kaldım. Sonra dayım Vahan Efendi haber alıp beni

Together we came to Ankara. I carried with me all the money at that time. At Ankara we spent a night in a Khan, I <sup>must</sup> not know what the name is. At night Savfet Bey came to me. I began to shout because I thought he would rape me. But he told me: "The men of the Khan may rob them", and took all money and valuables from me.

From Ankara we came to the capital at his house in Göztepe. He had the gold pieces changed and made them bracelets and earrings for his daughter.

He had brought to his house about hundred shawls, butter and other things.

I remained in his house about five months. Then my maternal uncle ~~Yezir/Şir/Vah~~ Vahan Efendi

muhafaza ettiginden dolayı Savfet Beye bir teşekkürname yazmasına ve ben de paralarımın geri verilmesi ikide birde söyledigimden ürkesine mebni Savfet Beyin haremi beni Çatalcada Sultanî mektebi muallimi dayım Vahan Efendinin nezdine gönderdi.

Dayımın kızı olup Yozgatta bulunan Beatris Varvaryan ve Arşaluys Taşçıyan görmüşlerdir. Beatris İslâm ismini taşımaktadır, fakat ben ismini bilmem.

Bir de bizi Yozgattan sürdükleri vakit çete-başı Ceritzade Hasan hanemizle Vahan Efendinin hanesinde bulunan elli kilim ve yirmibeş halı toplayıp aldı, ve bir halıda biz sürgüne gittiğimizde Yozgatlı Dişçioglunun hayırhah bize yardımı olur zannıyla

was aware of the fact, he took me under his protection and wrote a <sup>you</sup> ~~thanksgiving~~ letter to Savfet Bey. And I more than once asked Savfet Bey to give me back my money and valuables. He was frithened. He sent his wife to the house of my uncle Vahan Efendi who was a teacher at Sultanie College in Chatalja, to meet me there.

My niece Beatrice Varvarian and Arshalouis Tashjian ~~awho~~ are in Yozgat, are eyewitnesses. Beatrice has a Moslem name, but I <sup>not</sup> ~~don't~~ know this name.

During deportation in Yozgat, chete-gang leader Jeridzade Hasan robbed from our house and from the house of Vahan Efendi fifty kilims and twenty-five rugs, and while we were deported from Yozgat, we friendly gave another rug to Dish-jioğlu hoping that he may help us, but we never saw him

vermiştik, fakat bir eyiliğini görmedik. Yine çetebaşılardan Feyaz Bey hanemizde cevizden mamul büyük saat, ve üç adet masa, ve hanemizin minderleri serili dantelalı beyaz takımlarını ve yüz çift ip çorap zorla toplayıp aldı hanesine götürdü.

23 Kânunevvel 334.

Öjeni Varvryan.

again. Also Feyaz Bey, another chete-gang leader, robbed from our house by force a big watch made with walnut wood and three tables, and cushions by series with hand made broderies and white services, and hundred pairs of socks. He collected all these by force and took them to his house.

December 23, 1918.

Eugenie Varvarian. 1)

1) Jerusalem Archives No W 486-W 488



## The Case of Captain Newzad

Memduh Bey, Mutesarif of Erzinjan and Deputy Halet Bey organized the massacre of the Armenians of the same district. *Specifically,* Memduh had, particularly, 1,400 Armenian children buried alive. *as a promotion,* He was transferred to Bitlis where he met <sup>his</sup> Nâzim Nazmi Bey, a good collaborator of <sup>him.</sup>

Then he was promoted Governor General <sup>of</sup> to Mosul, a great camp of concentration for Armenian deportees. Nazim Nazmi joined him there as commander of <sup>the</sup> gendarmerie battalion.

Jointly with Newzad, Commandant de Place, and Halil Pasha, uncle of Enver ~~Pasha~~, Memduh and Nâzim Nazmi organized the ~~mas-~~ <sup>General</sup> ~~sacre~~ of Armenian deportees in the province of Mosul. <sup>Ali İhsan</sup> Pasha finally joined them.

They organized a battalion of workers, composed of 400 Armenian deportees 10 to 70 of age and forced them to work <sup>on</sup> ~~in~~ constructions.

Hilmi Bey, an ingeneer in the ministry of ~~Interior~~ ~~Public Works~~ participated in the pillage, committed rapes and ~~he~~ himself shot five Armenian deportees.

When <sup>the</sup> British Army arrived <sup>in</sup> Mosul, there remained from the workers battalion only 60 to 80 survivors. An eyewitness <sup>at</sup> ~~once~~ showed ~~once~~ the corpses to Vali Memduh who said <sup>to</sup> him: "They are already sentenced to death."

Ali İhsan Pasha, who had ordered atrocities and massacres on the Russe-Turkish borders, presided over the leaders who had to realize the massacre of the Armenian deportees and fixed a new program to be carried out, but <sup>it</sup> ~~was~~ not achieved.



when the British Army came to occupy Mosul. 1

On Monday, April 9, 1919, the Court Martial in Constantinople dedicated both morning and afternoon sessions to examine<sup>ing</sup> the case of Newzad<sup>a</sup> ~~Commandant de Place of Mosul~~. Dr. Avni Bey testified that Newzad in his capacity of Commandant de Place, collaborated with Vali Memduh and Halil Pasha, chete-gang leader and commander of workers battalions. They organized the massacre of the Armenian deportees in Mosul and the workers battalion of Armenian soldiers. Newzad<sup>also</sup> had ~~also~~ Bederhanzadé Abdul Rezak <sup>by</sup> murdered.

Reshad Bey, Prosecutor of the Court Martial, read the following indictment: "The people who were waiting liberty and justice with the proclamation of the Constitution (1908) were disappointed especially when witnessing the unprecedented crimes. The <sup>(U)</sup> <sup>(P)</sup> <sup>(P)</sup> (Union and Progress Party), thanks to its organizations, committed all kinds of wrong doings. <sup>(IT?)</sup> Had Ahmed Samin Bey, Zeki Bey, Fehim Bey and many other individuals killed.

Newzad<sup>e</sup> Bey, here present, was one of the leaders of this clandestine organization. He is involved in the murder of Samin Bey, Zeki Bey and in the wrong doings at Sublime Porte."

We would like to examine all these cases, but now let the witnesses whose names are listed in the report of the Inquiry Commission be heard.

Aside<sup>from</sup> the murders for which he is implicated, there are indescribable atrocities, pillages, rapes and new assassi-

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1. La Renaissance, No. 166, Saturday, June 14, 1919.

nations.

"I urge the Court to begin the examination of his case immediately." 2

The President of the Court Martial asked Captain Newzad Bey whether he <sup>had been</sup> tried by another Court Martial.

"Newzad. Positive. In the case of Yacub Jemil Bey, who was my classmate. Once he called me to the Hotel Messerret. I went there without any hesitation. Yacub Jemil discussed with me the disastrous policy of the Government. I told nothing about this to my military commander. But Yacub Jemil Bey was sentenced to death."

"President. (to Newzad) What was the decision made by the Court in your concern?

"Newzad. No decision.

"President- Consequently the trial is still in course." 3

A discussion was held between the President of the Court, the Prosecutor and the defense attorney of Newzad.

The President then asked questions about the murder of Abdul Rezak Bey, former second master of ceremonies in the palace of Yildiz.

"Abdul Rezak was your guest for two days. Then he died allegedly suffering <sup>from</sup> dysentery. You had him buried in <sup>a</sup> hurry. What is the story?

"Newzad- This is wrong. I am a military officer honest and honorable. Many officers will come to testify <sup>to</sup> my honest." 3

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2. La Ren. No. 111, Thursday, June 10, 1919.

3. La Ren. No. 112, Friday, June 11, 1919.

Secret agent Sherif Bey, son of Sherif Pasha, testified: "I was a <sup>doorman</sup> ~~doorman~~ in the building of the Military Office in Mosul. When Newzad was Commandant de Place therein, all amounts of money were seized from the deportees; the pillagers left ~~for~~ them some banknotes and exiled them to <sup>The</sup> desert. They were horribly tortured at night. A father was tortured to death." 4

Then the President asked about the relationship of Newzad with Memduh Bey, who was promoted Vali of Mosul because he had <sup>the</sup> Armenians of Erzinjan massacred, <sup>and also because</sup> ~~As well as~~ his friendship with Halil Pasha, uncle of Enver ~~Pasha~~.

"Sherif Bey- The relationship between Halil and Newzad was very close; the latter was very well protected and no one could make any remark to him." 4

Newzad in turn denied all these accusations and in turn he accused Sherif Bey <sup>of being</sup> ~~as~~ a deserter and criminal.

The Prosecutor of the Court rejected such accusations.

Then cavalry regiment commander Bekir Bey testified:

"During <sup>the</sup> Balkan War", he said, "I was the commander of volunteers at Chatalja and I commanded a cavalry regiment. When Adrianople was occupied by <sup>the</sup> enemy, I despatched a telegram to the Sultan and made his Majesty understand the danger threatening the Army Corps because of the dissension and animosity of <sup>the</sup> parties. The Unionist Government put me in jail and then I was brought to the Military Court at night. I am now alive because the Sultan did not ratify

death

my ~~deth~~ sentence. This made Enver angry. He gave order<sup>s</sup> to the military Court to cleanse the Army from the military officers who would not share his views and support him."

Cavalry regiment ~~Bekir~~ Commander Bekir Bey continued his testimony: "Newzad is known for his boastfulness and atrocities perpetrated in <sup>the</sup> Mosul area. All families suffered because of his attitude. He created obstacles in the affairs of military supplies. The Army has to pay 40-50,000 Turkish pounds to the ethnic population of Mosul. This is a shame for the Army. By his orders five soldiers ~~were~~ massacred, little by little, Kurds by the thousands emigrant from Bitlis and Erzerum. He ordered <sup>them to be</sup> ~~to~~ deprived them ~~from~~ of food supplies and had them die by starvation.

"He is a savage. <sup>once,</sup> I saw ~~once~~ in his office a soldier whose hands and feet were tied to an iron bar, and I saw sergeant Yusuf beat him, wound him so that blood was pouring from his mouth."

In addition he said: "Newzad had all Armenian stores and shoppes closed in Mosul, had them deported and massacred <sup>them</sup> on the highway.

"When Newzad was leaving Bagdad, he had a police agent hanged in front of the government building. I don't know why. I swear on the Coran that Newzad is an assassin and a monster."

Newzad kept calm and said: "These are lies. They want <sup>to</sup> hurt me. I don't know why. I am honest."

The President asked Newzad whether it is true that he and Halil Pasha seized food supplies arriving <sup>at</sup> to Mosul, and

that they sold and appropriated the money.

Newzad simply denied.<sup>5</sup>

Then Newzad introduced to the Court a long list of military witnesses who came to the courtroom one by one, <sup>swore</sup>sworn officially to tell the truth under oath, but one by one they left the courtroom without saying <sup>a</sup>word. No one said that Newzad was innocent. As in the case of Vasfi Pasha who was Inspector of the 13th Army. He spent only one month in Mosul. Newzad asked for his testimony to prove his honorability. Vasfi Pasha did not testify pro or con<sup>6</sup>.

Retired Major Ferid Bey said that Newzad helped him.

Captain Shukri Bey, Chief of Personnel of the Sixth Army in Mosul told the Court that Newzad is a serious military man.

Fazil Bey, Deputy for Mosul, testified, but he said nothing important. He was in Mosul when Halil-Newzad held the military command in Mosul.

He added: "I saw the accused in the office of the Vali. That is all.

"Food supplies were seized from the population. They beat the people. Women went to villages and brought home <sup>small supplies of</sup> food, ~~supplies in a little bit very hardly~~. But they were beaten when returning home and ~~were taken off~~ <sup>was taken from them</sup> what they had brought. Starvation and hunger were so extensive in Mos<sup>u</sup>l that each day more than 250-300 people died. Males were put in jail under the pretext of recruitment. I saw them. I could no <sup>longer</sup> ~~more~~ stay in Mosul." 6

5. La Ren. No. 113, Sunday, June 13, 1919.

6. La Ren. No. 115, Tuesday, June 15, 1919.



The Prosecutor of the Court asked why he had not intervened to the Vali in his capacity of Deputy.

"Deputy Fazil Bey- I was not a member of the (Union and Progress Party), and was not successful in my requests. As an Arab Deputy I lived under terror." 7

Many other witnesses came to <sup>the</sup> courtroom on Monday, April 21, 1919. Namik Bey gave some details. The Prosecutor ordered his arrest. Namik Bey said: "Newzad was military commander and I was a member of the Court Martial. A soldier ~~in the~~ name ~~of~~ <sup>man</sup> Tahir was going and coming in the streets of Mosul like an insane with a weapon in his hand. He attempted to escape at night. Police men pursued him. Tahir shot his revolver and succeeded <sup>in</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>ing</sup> escape. But he was finally arrested and brought to the Military Court. Some members of the Court were of the opinion <sup>to</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>c</sup> ~~sentencing~~ him to death, others were not of the same opinion. I was one of the latter.

"During these deliberations a soldier brought to the court an order signed by Newzad who sentenced Tahir to death. Newzad had the soldier in question murdered."

In addition, Namik Bey testified that as the murder of Tahir was an accomplished fact, the Court Martial signed the ~~the~~ condemnation of this soldier.

The Prosecutor of the Court remarked that such an act was unlawful and arrested Namik Bey. The Court Martial made a decision to examine the acts of the Court Martial of Mosul.

Then Namik Bey revealed how Newzad, following the order of Halil Pasha, had five Jews murdered and ordered to put the

corpses in a large bag and to bring it and throw <sup>it</sup> into the Tiger River.

This case was also brought to the Court Martial of Mosul but Namik Bey does not know why this matter was not examined by the same Court.

Basri Bey, Dr. Rifaat Bey, Jelal Bey and others testified before the Court Martial against Newzad, who was angry and furious, and ~~repeatedly~~ <sup>repeatedly stated</sup> always that he was honest and honorable.

Jelal Bey testified that prior to the assassination of Abdul Rezak Bederhan, the commander of the battalion called him by telephone at night and gave him order <sup>to</sup> dig a grave, saying: "Have a grave ~~digged~~ <sup>dug</sup> very deep." 8

The trial of Newzad continued on April 22, 11:30 p.m. Three new witnesses testified. Sergeant Major Musa Kiazim Bey knows nothing about the crimes committed in Mosul by order of Newzad. He knows only that Newzad was brought to the Court Martial as he was implicated in the affairs of Yacub Jemil, and that he was removed from Constantinople.

Akseraili Jemal Bey's testimony:

"Newzad <sup>bled</sup> ~~bleeded~~ the people <sup>by</sup> taking their money. He was harmful for the country. He gave himself an arbitrary power and molested the people and soldiers, old and young without discrimination and mercy. Tahir, a soldier, was hanged by his order without judgement. He had Abdul Rezak slaughtered."

Newzad asked Halil Pasha, uncle of Enver, to testify. Halil was brought to the courtroom under escort from the prison of Bekir Aga Bölügü. Halil and Newzad were very close

friends. Halil only refuted the accusations against his subaltern friend, whom he protected. But Halil was certainly more implicated in crimes than Newzad. §9

Both morning and afternoon sessions of the Court Martial were dedicated to the trial of Newzad, Saturday, May 3, 1919.

Police Agent Bartinli Zia, as he was in Mosul, confirmed the crimes ordered by Newzad. He testified: "When we were leaving Bagdad, our sergeant Major killed a police man and gave order, to keep silent. He had carried out the order ~~of~~ he received from Newzad. The latter <sup>repeated?</sup> (repeated) that he maintained order in Bagdad.

Bartinli Zia confirmed the assassination of Abdul Rezak by order of Newzad who had also, used Armenian deportees in the construction of routes. Newzad finally admitted that he had used Armenian deportees without authorization.

Captain Ferid. Bey, who served under the command of Newzad as commander of gendarmerie guard-corps, affirmed that nothing important happened in Mosul. He added: "Nothing in Mosul seemed to me abnormal. There were only 30,000 deserters. During their arrest severity was <sup>exercised</sup> ~~exercised~~. We were obliged to have such an attitude. Deserters were killed by the hundreds. This is all." He said <sup>calmly</sup> ~~(in calm)~~.

But when he was asked about the assassination of Abdul Rezak, he <sup>lost his</sup> ~~loosed~~ temper and fell <sup>to</sup> in contradictions. Newzad had introduced him <sup>to</sup> Abdul Rezak.

President- Why <sup>did</sup> Newzad introduced to you his subaltern?"  
 Captain Ferid had nothing to answer.

Mihran Boyajian, Civil Inspector in the Ministry of Internal Affairs witnessed what was going on in Mosul. He testified: "Each day people died by the thousands by starvation. The corpses were abandoned in the streets. People used to eat corpses of horses and other animals."

Concerning Abdul Rezak, the witness confirmed that he was assassinated. He added: "The financial director (Defterdar) Kiazim Efendi had an interview with him <sup>a</sup> few hours prior to the assassination of Abdul Rezak, who was in very good health. He was slaughtered by Commander Nazim and Newzad. He was not buried. The following day no one dared to speak about the incident." 10

He also confirmed that Armenian deportees were used in hard labor. He said: "Many of them did not arrive <sup>at their</sup> destination because gendarmes massacred them on the highway. And gendarmes stated that they received order, from their Commander to do so."

The Police Commissioner corroborated the facts, the massacre of five Jews, the condemnation of Tahir by Newzad and the assassination of Abdul Rezak, whose house was closed with the seal of Newzad. Agent Ferid who was arrested in the morning, took ~~off~~ the seal from the door. He was called again to <sup>the</sup> courtroom. His guilt and collaboration were seriously established.

The (<sup>U</sup> Union and <sup>P</sup> Progress Party) sent from Constantinople to Mosul Captain Hilmi Bey, <sup>a</sup> member of <sup>the</sup> Military Staff, ~~to from~~ *Constantinople to Mosul, there to* organize ~~there~~ the massacre of more than 15,000 Armenian deportees in <sup>the</sup> Mosul district. Capt. Hilmi led himself a chete-gang and massacred the Armenian deportees in the narrow pass of Zacho not far from Mosul. In this activity he ~~was~~ <sup>t</sup> was a collaborator and accomplice of Newzad.

Hilmi now is busy with commerce in Galata; ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> became rich with the money of Armenian deportees. 11

During <sup>the</sup> last session held May 20, 1919, the Court Martial had already <sup>e</sup> achieved the trials of <sup>the</sup> Trebizond massacres and ~~the~~ High-Bosphore (Buyukdere) deportations. In the meantime, British Authorities at Constantinople deported sixty-seven Turkish high ranking officials and officers to Malta moving <sup>on May 28, 1919/</sup> them from the prison of Bekir Aga Bölügü for safe custody and adequate trial. Halil Pasha, uncle of Enver, and Kuchuk Talaat have escaped from prison, while Captain Newzad Bey was among the deportees to Malta.

Consequently Reshad Bey, Prosecutor of the Court Martial, asked for <sup>a</sup> ~~postponing~~ <sup>ement of</sup> the trial of Newzad, and <sup>the</sup> trying <sup>of</sup> his accomplices such as Ferid Bey and Zekai Bey, both implicated deeply in the murder of Abdul Rezak Bey.

Kiazim Bey's testimony followed: "Abdul Rezak", he said, "had escaped to Russia, but ~~late~~ <sup>later</sup> he submitted himself to the Turkish Authorities and was sent to Mosul. <sup>A f</sup> Few days after his arrival he paid me a visit. He was in very good health.



Suddenly we <sup>heard</sup> ~~heard~~ that he died. <sup>A</sup> Jewish Doctor Yahia delivered a certificate of death emphasizing that it was the result of dysentery. My opinion is that Abdul Rezak was poisoned. When he arrived <sup>at</sup> ~~to~~ Mosul, he brought with him a message <sup>e</sup> from the central Government to the authorities of Mosul that he was at their disposal. He <sup>got</sup> ~~obtained~~ six square feet of soil."

Then the same witness described the hunger in Mosul district: "The crimes" he said, "committed in Mosul are innumerable. It is impossible to name them one by one. Before my own eyes, the hunger made 60,000 victims <sup>beside</sup> ~~aside~~ the soldiers who died on the front. The starvation was so extensive that even meat of horses and other animals was missing. Men became cannibals. In order to repress the voice of the population, Newzad, Memduh, Halil, Nazmi, Naim, Jevad, Nuri and others military and civil responsible authorities were executioners. Abuses were so extensive. Before our eyes they seized, using whips and butt stocks, food supplies from people and sold <sup>(them)</sup> elsewhere <sup>for</sup> ~~with~~ high prices. The Chief of the Military Intendance made a fortune of 70, 000 Turkish pounds," about dollars-2,450,000 <sup>dollars</sup>.

The Court postponed the session for next Wednesday,  
1:00 p.m. 12

In the meantime many changes <sup>/</sup> and modifications were introduced in the Court Martial. Muammer Bey, Imperial Prosecutor, presented his resignation for health <sup>(reasons)</sup>.

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12. La Ren. No. 156, Tuesday, June 3, 1919.

13. La Ren. No. 164, Wednesday, June 11, 1919

Sami Bey who was prosecutor in the First Court Martial since 5 February 1919 was replaced by Muammer Bey. 14

The number of the Turkish high ranking officials and officers detained in the Bekir Aga Bölüğü, Constantinople, was reduced to sixty-four, <sup>71</sup> all involved in the massacres, and whose trial and examination had already started in the Court Martial. 15

Esad Pasha, President of the First Court Martial began to assume his responsibilities by receiving the dossiers for study, but he took one week vacation <sup>because of the condition of his health</sup> for his health condition. 16 He returned to office in good health. 17) He began the trial of Kaymakam Aziz Bey and Sabanjali Hakki Bey. 18) However, as the Inquiry Commission and the Judges of Instruction were changed, the former trials <sup>may soon take place</sup> ~~soon may take up~~ again. 19

First of all Esad Pasha, President of the Court Martial No. 1 made officially the following statement to the editor of Irfan, <sup>a</sup> Turkish newspaper published in Constantinople: "You know that the Imperial Edict for the sanction of the nomination of the Imperial Prosecutor of the Court Martial and his assistant substitutes is not yet promulgated, we are not able to

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14. La Ren. No. 170, Thursday, June 19, 1919.

15. La Ren. No. 173, Sunday, 22 June, 1919.

16. La Ren. No. 232, Sunday, August 31, 1919.

17. La Ren. No. 238, Sunday, September 7, 1919.

18. La Ren. No. 242, Friday, September 12, 1919.

19. La Ren. No. 252, Wednesday, September 24, 1919.

take up the trials. However, as soon as the Imperial Edict will be published, we shall begin the examinations, perhaps within two days or more. The attendance shall be public, as you know. But if necessary, sessions may be held without public attendance." 20

The new Prosecutor of the Court Martial and his assistants began their function on September 30, 1919 and the trials will start on Saturday. 21

Mushtak Lutfi Bey, former Governor of Erthogrul, involved in the affairs of deportation and massacre was sentenced to one year of imprisonment (on October 8, 1919. 22)

However, Mushtak Lutfi was released because he had committed these crimes prior to the war. 23

Again, Rejeb Pasha, Ahmed Refik Bey and Neshad Pasha, members of the Court Martial, were replaced by Mustafa Kerimi Pasha, Colonel Suleyman Shakir Bey and Lieutenant Colonel Ibrahim Bey, on October 15, 1919. 24

Mustafa Kerimi Pasha is in function, while the Court Martial shall work according to new by-laws concerning the Court Martial. 25

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- 20. La Ren. No. 257, Tuesday, September 30, 1919.
  - 21. La Ren. No. 258, Wednesday, October 1, 1919.
  - 22. La Ren. No. 265, Thursday, October 9, 1919.
  - 23. La Ren. No. 266, Friday, October 10, 1919.
  - 24. La Ren. No. 271, Thursday, October 16, 1919.
  - 25. La Ren. No. 272, Friday, October 17, 1919.

While continuing the trial of Responsible Secretaries and Delegates of the Union and Progress Party in the provinces of Anatolia, the Court Martial began to try Nejati Bey of Crete and reassumed the trial of Mamuret-ul-Aziz massacres. 26

Ultimately, an Imperial Edict sanctioned the constitution of three courts martial. However, the First Court Martial has to wait yet <sup>for</sup> to the formalities to be accomplished for its functioning, perhaps <sup>in</sup> two days <sup>later</sup>. 27

As a matter of fact, the Court Martial No.1, presided over by Esad Pasha, delivered a verdict on January 8, 1920. Among the Responsible Secretaries and Delegates of the Union and Progress Party only two were sentenced to hard labor and another nine were acquitted. 28

The same Court delivered another verdict on January 13, sentencing Dr. Behaeddin Shakir Bey to death in Absentia and Nazim Bey Resné to fifteen years of hard labor, in Absentia, while Mehmed Baloshzadé, Deputy of Harput and Ferid Bey, Supervisor of Public Education in Mamuret-ul-Aziz, were acquitted. 29

The trial of Captain Ferid Bey, accomplice of Newzad, who had tortured Armenian deportees in Mosul, and pillaged their possessions, ~~and~~ and caused death to Abdul Rezak, resumed on March 1920. 30

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October  
27 26. La Ren. No. 274, Sunday, ~~September~~ 19, 1919.

27. La. Ren. No. 275, Monday, October 21, 1919.

28. Takvim-i Vakayi No. 3772, Published February 13, 1920.

29. Takvim-i Vakayi, No. 3771, Published January 21, 1920.

30. La Ren. No. 397, Sunday, March 14, 1920.

The Prosecutor requested the acquitment of Ferid, as the accusations have no basis, according to the provisions of the Article 100 and 170 of the Penal Code.

*length* Ali Haidar Bey, defense attorney of Ferid, (longly) pleaded *at* that his client had no <sup>ed</sup> participation in the above mentioned crimes; that Abdul Rezak died from dysentery according to the medical certificate delivered by the municipal doctor of Mosul.

President Esad Pasha asked Ferid Bey if he had anything to add to the plea of his defense attorney, Ferid answered that he had nothing to add and he hoped to be acquitted as he considered himself innocent.

The Court decided to deliver the verdict next day at 3:00 p.m.

31

At the session held on Monday March 17, 1920, President Esad Pasha ordered <sup>be</sup> (to <sup>be</sup> read) the verdict of the Court concerning Ferid Bey, Assistant Commander of Newzad Commandant de Place of Mosul, and <sup>his</sup> accomplice Zekai Bey. Both <sup>his</sup> Ferid and Zekai were acquitted, as the Court did not find evidence enough to prove (either) their culpability, <sup>or</sup> (and) that they were (not involved in the affairs of Armenian deportees and the massacres perpetrated in the area of Mosul specifically at Zacho, <sup>a</sup> massacre site not far from the town of Mosul. 32

As to other accusations, the Court Martial declared itself non-competent, and decided to deliver the dossiers to the War Office. 33

31. La Ren. No. 397, Sunday, March 14, 1920.

32. La Ren. No. 400, Thursday, March 18, 1920.

33. La Ren. No. 400, " " " "



Captain Newzad Bey, Commandant de Place of Mosul, deeply implicated in the perpetration of the massacre of 15,000 Armenian deportees in Mosul area, was deported by British Authorities to Malta from the prison of Constantinople May 28, 1919. His Malta prison No. was 2696, "detained under point 5 of Foreign Office telegram No. 233 of 5-2-19, outrages to Armenians or other subject races both in <sup>T</sup>urkey and in Transcauc<sup>ca</sup>asia," with Memduh Bey, Vali of Mosul, prison No. 2733, Ali Ihsan Pasha, Army Commander, prison No. 2667 and many others involved in the Armenian massacres, as listed under A. 34

In the section of F.O. documents entitled "Evidence against Turks accused of massacres" the name of Newzad is listed as follows: "Newzad Bey, Commandant de Place at Mosul June 1917, alleged to be responsible for the deportation of five hundred Armenians to Zaho", a gulch fixed as <sup>a</sup>massacre site not far from the town of Mosul. Newzad was detained at Malta with a view to a trial in connection with the Armenians." 35 This in July 1921<sup>1</sup>, while in September 1921 he is listed as "2696 Newzad, Captain, cruebties to Armenians." 36

In the same list it is reported that Newzad was released from the prison of Malta on April 30, 1921, while on another list Newzad is not registered with the 64 detainees to be released on April 1921. 37

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34. P.R.O. London, E170564/ME/44.

35. P.R.O. E6311/132/44, June 1, 1921.

36. P.R.O. E8519/132/44. July 13, 1921.

37. P.R.O. E9112/132/44, August 9, 1921, and 0103/3/1147.

Newzad was not released from Malta, he escaped with fifteen other detainees on September 6, 1921. This error has to be corrected in P.R.O. concern.

The opinion of Judge Lindsey Smith <sup>was</sup> ~~are~~ given in a letter of August 24, 1921: "His <sup>B.</sup>/Majesty's Supreme Court, Constantinople, 24th August 1921. British High Commissioner: I gather from a perusal of these papers that the Turkish prisoners in question were in prison awaiting trial by a Turkish Court Martial when the British Authorities took them over in May 1919...

"The only alternative is therefore to retain them <sup>as</sup> ~~is~~ hostages only and release them against the British prisoners. If any justification be needed for not proceeding to trial as originally proposed, I submit that it is suggested by paragraph 2 of the Foreign Office letter No. 851 where it states that a considerable amount of incriminating evidence was collected by the Turkish Government, but it is idle to expect to get it. Could not the Turkish Authorities be asked to supply this evidence? If they refused as the despatch anticipates, it would afford, I think, a ground for deciding not to go with the prosecution for it must be remembered they were the original accusers and made the initial arrests.

"In any case, after a lapse of five years (the massacres were I think in 1915 ) (38) <sup>it</sup> would be practically impossible to conduct a trial which would be fair either to accusers or accused, and that fact alone seems a good ground for dropping the prosecution. These remarks do not apply to eight accused of cruelty to prisoners. These I understand the Attorney General wishes to prosecute and the matter has been left in his hand." 39

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38. Judge Lindsey Smith certainly ignored that Newzad was Commandant de Place of Mosul after June 1917 and the crimes were committed in 1917.

39. P.R.O. E10023/132/44.

British High Commissioner Calthorpe wrote to Lord Curzon on September 29, 1921: It is obvious that in the<sup>se</sup>/circumstances it might be very difficult to sustain definite charges against many of these persons [detained in Malta K] before an Allied Tribunal. It is not politically desirable that any of them should be sent back to Turkey at present, but it is very desirable indeed that His Majesty's Government should form some clear idea as to the best means of disposing of them eventually. ... "Persons arrested by the Turkish Authorities and still in Turkish custody...are in the hands of the Special Court Martial constituted by the Turkish Government to try war criminals, including persons responsible for massacre, profiteers and others. The Court Martial has been such a dead failure that its findings cannot be held of any account at all, if it is intended to make responsibility for deportations and massacres a matter of inter-Allied concern.

"The dossiers (in) of the Court Martial should also be, in case of need, a valuable mine of miscellaneous information.

"As your Lordship is aware, I have never thought that it would be either practicable or politic to attempt to bring to justice all persons who took a part in the deportations and massacres - justice and policy require, however, that an endeavour should be made to bring to justice a certain number of those who had played the most active roles, whether ~~or~~ <sup>and</sup> originators, organisers or executants, ~~at~~ that the choice of persons to be placed on their trial should not be determined by the more or less fortuitous circumstances of their being now in

custody. Several of those now in British or Turkish custody doubtless played the active roles described above, but there are many others of equal criminality at large.

"The question which arises in connection with this class are 1) whether it is to be made a matter of inter-Allied concern that should be brought to trial; 2) whether they should be tried before an inter-Allied or Turkish Tribunal; 3) how the list of those to be tried should be drawn up; 4) and whether persons not included in such list should be amnestied or should still be liable to prosecution in the ordinary courts, as and when it may subsequently occur to private or public prosecutors to institute proceedings against them before the tribunals of the future Turkey or of new states. Unless these questions receive a clear answer in the treaties of Peace, it may safely be practical that the question of retribution for the deportations and massacres will be an element of venomous trouble in the life of each of the countries concerned." 40

R. W. Woods, Prosecutor General's Department, expressed ~~to~~ his opinions, while in Foreign Office, London, W.S. Edmunds. D. G. Osborne signed comments on August 8, 1921 as follows:

"There is probably not one of these persons who does not deserve a long term of imprisonment if not capital punishment." 41

But from the letter it appears that the chances of obtaining convictions are almost nil.

"Commander Buxton suggests in the minutes referred to by Mr. Woods that <sup>the</sup> French may have plenty of evidence of crimes committed in territory which they now occupy. Whether this is

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40. P.R.O. 1722/R/1315.

41. Emphasis added.

so or not, their policy is such that it would be useless to approach them.

"There is probably some evidence in the archives of the Court Martial at Constantinople which ended with a fiasco. Even if we urged to get the Turks as might be possible if the Government (charges?) to allow us to consult their archives as a preliminary to releasing such Turks as were not incriminated, the really important documents could no doubt be smuggled away before we began to examine them...42

"It is regrettable that Turks have been confined <sup>so</sup> as long without charges being formulated against them but that is due to non-ratification of the Treaty." <sup>which</sup> with Turkey signed at Sèvres August 10, 1920. 43

As to Newzad in Malta, signed with forty-three colleagues, a collective letter to the Governor-Commander-in-Chief of Malta on May 24, 1921. The Turkish detainees protested against their detention. 44

The Commander-in-Chief of Malta announced that sixteen Turkish detainees in Malta "broke parole" and escaped from Malta. Newzad was the third who broke parole, while he had often declared that he was a honest and honorable military man.

decides  
agrees



T r i a l  
of Buyukdéré<sup>2</sup> Deportations

Buyukdéré, Aslanbeg, Yalakdéré and Beykoz are suburbs of Constantinople on the High Bosphore.

The Court Martial began the trial of Buyukdéré deportations on Wednesday April 23, 1919.

There were only three accused in the courtroom: the Chief of Police Abdulkerim Bey, Jelal Bey and Reföfik Bey of Salonika. They were indicted for having committed thefts, pillages during and after the deportation of the Armenians and Greeks from Buyukdéré.

The Prosecutor urged to begin immediately the examination of these three hereby present in the court.

The Chief of Police Abdulkerim made the following deposition:  
"Once earlier in the morning the Police Commissioner Bedri Bey came [from Constantinople K] to Buyukdéré, and we went to see the Commander of Forts of Bosphore. The Commander was still sleeping. Bedri did not awake him. Then the Police Commissioner after <sup>a one</sup> ~~one~~ hour <sup>and</sup> ~~long~~ deliberations with the Commander, ~~they~~ took a map on which they marked a special zone and gave me order<sup>s</sup> to deport all Christians<sup>inhabitants</sup> from that area. They fixed <sup>a</sup> ~~three-days~~ deadline. I protested. It was materially impossible to carry out such deportation within a three days deadline, even two weeks. I was successful to obtain one week deadline. I immediately went to Buyukdéré and called the community chiefs and muhtars 1) and made them aware of the decision made by the govern-

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1. Muhtar: headman of a ward.

ment to deport Christians within a week. They obeyed. The deportation began. I watched myself to observe order and security of the deportees and their possessions. Everyone went to the place of his choice, except the zone out of bound. I worked as a simple police agent, helped the porters, boatmen and coachmen. I specifically watched that the latter <sup>did</sup> ~~do~~ not take advantage <sup>of</sup> ~~from~~ these circumstances to claim exaggerated prices. One week deadline was over. Another week was fixed. So everyone had a chance to transport his furniture. The operation of deportation was regular, after the evacuation of houses, Moslem soldiers occupied them. These soldiers pillaged houses. We had no power and jurisdiction to punish them. Soldiers and their officers ~~kept~~ <sup>kept</sup> us when we tried to intervene. We could only report the facts to the authorities, i.e. War Office, because robbery and brigandage were organized and carried out by military commanders. I found myself many items robbed and hidden by the officers in large quantity. However, such officers were never punished. 2)

"All these incidents took place in the suburbs of the capital."

Abdulkerim continued his deposition:

"Turkish women entered in the Armenian houses, robbed items and took them to Scutari 3) hidden under their carsafs 4). I made an investigation at the home of Moharrem Efendi at Scutari; I found there many furniture robbed and other sacred items

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2. Emphasis added.

3. Scutari, a county of Constantinople.

4. Carsaf, outer garment formerly worn by Turkish women

hidden in the wells of the houses and belonging to the Greek Church. Pillagers were not punished. If there is really <sup>someone</sup> ~~a~~ responsible for these incidents, it is not ~~me~~, it is rather the governor at <sup>a</sup> ~~this~~ time. I was a simple chief of police. I accomplished my duty according to the orders I received.

"President- How could you, with nine police agents, observe order and security in ~~a~~ so large <sup>an</sup> area for the conservation of houses and other possessions?

"Abdulkerim did not answer.

"President- You expelled the guard from the house of Eskenazi by <sup>KICKING</sup> ~~beating~~ him and occupied yourself the house.

"Abdulkerim-It is not true. I did not occupy the house of any one. Why <sup>did</sup> I have to <sup>KICK</sup> ~~beat~~ the guard to expell him?

"President- Even you molested a blind <sup>boy</sup> ~~boy~~ of twelve ~~years~~ old and forced him to take a boat and leave Buyukdéré.

"Abdulkerim-This is not true, either. I am not so bad as to molest a blind boy.

"President- You did hide in a ditch many items robbed from homes; later on you loaded them in a boat ~~sspecifically~~ made available for this purpose and translo~~r~~ted them to Beykoz.

"Abdulkerim- I cannot even hear such accusations. Your Honor, it hurts me.

"President- However, a police agent of Beykoz saw this and reported to the General Headquarters of the Police Commissioner. A special Commission held an investigation and established the fact. Even a big cauldron from among these furniture is now in the Commissariat of the Police of Beykoz.

"Abdulkerim- Not at all; not at all. If my guilt was established, how could I continue my functions? As I accomplished my duties <sup>for</sup> since years without any blame."

<sup>The</sup> President made Abdulkerim understand that his chiefs had their superiors, too.

The second accused was Jelal, Muhtar of Buyukdéré. He was accomplice to Abdulkerim in pillages and distribution of loots.

"President- Mrs. Christine entrusted <sup>to</sup> you her furniture and you sold them.

"Jelal- No one entrusted ~~me~~ <sup>to me</sup> furniture.

"President- Where <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ then her furniture?

"Jelal- She <sup>it</sup> ~~took~~ them with her.

"President- What about her house?

"Jelal- soldiers destroyed it.

"President- Why?

"Jelal- It was winter time; houses ~~were~~ demolished in order to provide wood for heating." 5)

Sami Bey's testimony: "The non-Moslems of Buyukdéré were given ten days deadline to leave the area. The Chief of Police Abdulkerim was in office during deportation of Christians. There were many complaints. A Turkish proverb makes clear that one must not abuse confidence. Abdulkerim committed abuses in the affair of the Royal Hotel which was entrusted to him. He pillaged furniture and transported them to Constantinople where he sold them and appropriated the price." 6

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5. La Ren. No. 123, Friday, 28/ April 25, 1919.

6. La Ren. No. 134, Tuesday, May 8, 1919.

Witness Sami Bey was sorry <sup>for having</sup> ~~to have~~ provided such details. He began to deny his written statements.

Another witness Kemal Bey courageously gave details: "Many non-Moslems were forced to leave during deportation their furniture in their houses and leave for ever.

"Moslems came to Buyukdéré. They <sup>broke</sup> ~~burst~~ed doors, entered in houses, where they settled with their families as real owners. They remained there for a time, then abandoned houses, but took furniture with them.

"Buyukdér<sup>2</sup> was divided into two zones of influence. The first was under control of Refik Bey; the second under control of Abdulkerim, who exerted a great tyranny. He ordered to close shops and open houses which were closed. He arrested innocent people and put them in jail at the Police Commissariat, where they were beaten, such as the sacristan of the Armenian Church was imprisoned and tortured." 7

In addition this witness revealed that Abdulkerim threatened persons against whom he had grievance, and deported them. He said: "I was in his list, but Refik saved me..." 8

Refik Bey of Salonika was protected by Dr. Behaeddin Shakkir Bey."

The defense-attorney asked Kemal Bey how he had information concerning the division of Buyukdéré into two zones of influence.

"Kemal Bey- Positive. There were two zones. The houses of the wealthy families were in the zone of Refik Bey, while Abdulkerim had the rest, i.e. the houses of middle class bourgeois.

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7. La Ren. No. 134, Thursday, May 8, 1919.

8. " " " " "



"Both Refik and Abdulkerim began to break up and play games one against each other. Both disseminated mutual secrets concerning their robberies. So, people were aware of two zones of influence." 9

Another session was held on Saturday and the Court heard other witnesses, such as police agent Nuri, Imam Hilmi, Ali. The fourth witness was Hafiz Mehmed, a relative to Jelal Bey.

The Court found suspectful contradictions and reticences in his testimony. He has participated in the pillages. His replies to direct questions revealed his participation in the affairs, and the Prosecutor ordered his arrest in the Court.

Another witness Dédé Yusuf, fisherman Ömer, drogman Paul and fisherman Aleco made depositions against Refik of Salonika. The latter had served the means of fisherman Aleco in his interests. Refik Bey had no answers. 10

The Prosecutor gave the following indictment: "There is no evidence against the accused persons here present. The pillaging of non-Moslems of Buyukdéré during the deportation is not established. I claim their acquitment<sup>tal</sup>." 11

The defense-attorneys of the accused persons repeated the indictment of the Prosecutor.

The Court decided to deliver and publish the verdict. 11

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9. La Ren. No. 134, Thursday, May 8, 1919.  
 10.       "       144, Tuesday, May 20, 1919.  
 11.       "       150, Tuesday, May 27, 1919.

## The Verdict of the Court Martial

Minutes of the hearings of the Extraordinary Court Martial established by decision of His Majesty the Padishah by Imperial Edict, March 8, 1919.

President: Mustafa Nazim Pasha,

Members: Mirliwa Zeki Pasha,

Mirliwa Mustafa Pasha,

Mirliwa Ali Nazim Pasha,

Miralay Rejeb Ferdi Bey.

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### TRIAL OF DEPORTATION IN BUYUKDERE

The names of the accused in their presence: Kerim Bey, former Chief of Central Buyukdéré; Laz Jelal Efendi, Muhtar of Buyukdéré; Refik Bey of Salonika, resident in Buyukdéré; Hafiz Mahmud Efendi, resident in Buyukdéré.

### COPY OF THE VERDICT

Abdulkerim Bey, former Chief of Police at Buyukdéré; Refik Bey, tradesman, of Salonika; Jelal Efendi of Rizé and Hafiz Mahmud Efendi, are accused of having shorten<sup>ed</sup> the deadline sufficient<sup>ly</sup> fixed by the government for the deportation of the non-Moslem elements of Buyukdéré area and in order to ensure personal base and dirty interests; ~~of forcing~~ <sup>of forcing</sup> the deportees to abandon in this manner their furniture and merchandise as they were; of pillaging the abandoned goods, of robbing and appropriating the goods hidden using special means.

After deliberations, and after hearing the demands and

declarations, as well as the pleas of both sides, after having read and completely examined all the documents in the dossier, we made the following decisions.

As to Abdulkerim Bey and Refik Bey, whose names are among the accused, we did not find evidence and convincing arguments, proving that they pillaged and appropriated the abandoned goods and robbed the hidden goods.

However, Abdulkerim Bey, although he <sup>had the</sup> ~~was in~~ sacred ~~and~~ primary duty <sup>of obeying</sup> ~~to obey~~ and act<sup>ing</sup> according to Islamic dictates and the provisions of the Ottoman laws; ~~and~~ to effectively protect<sup>against</sup> danger and harm <sup>to the</sup> ~~the~~ life, <sup>and</sup> honor ~~and~~ of all elements without ~~any~~ discrimination, as well as their movable and fixed property and possessions; to maintain the furniture and belongings of the persons deported because of the state of necessity <sup>and who were made</sup> ~~made~~ liable by the military authorities, <sup>were</sup> moved and transferred to their places, <sup>he</sup>

~~He~~ neglected without any reason and accomplished unsatisfactorily his duties. So, he was the cause of loss of the movable possessions of deportees and the damage of their fixed property.

As to Refik Bey, deprived of competence and authorization by the Ottoman Government, <sup>he</sup> ~~he~~ carried out by stating his relationship with high ranking officials of the government certain acts relevant to civil officials and military officers. It was established from the hearings of witnesses that he was <sup>the</sup> ~~cause~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~for~~ certain persons <sup>jud</sup> ~~to~~ loose their rights. This is established also by several testimonies, hearings of the Courts and our

Four Categories of Criminals  
to be tried by Several Courts

On December 9, 1918, in the Senate meeting, Ahmed Riza Bey introduced a motion. This motion was read. It urged the Turkish Government to try and punish, whoever they might be, all the criminals involved in the deportation and massacre of the Armenian people, according to the degree of their guilt and following the provisions of the civil and military penal codes.

The motion of Ahmed Riza was read in the same meeting of the Senate as follows:

"Considering that the Supreme Court formed will try the responsible individuals who demanded Turkish participation in the war, and the errors committed during the war, and other matters - while unprecedented and beyond imagination - crimes have been committed by the two former cabinets against Arab, Armenian and Greek citizens, I forcefully urge that without any time being lost, the criminals be brought to justice..." 1

The minister of justice Nejmeddin Jemal Molla Bey answered the motion of Ahmed Riza, and distinguished four categories of criminals involved in the deportation and massacre of the Armenians:

1. First Category of Criminals, such as high ranking officials and officers, police commissioners and gendarmerie commanders, truly guilty, should be tried, and the

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1. La Renaissance, French daily, published at Constantinople, No. 2, Tuesday, December 10, 1918.

Government ought not to intervene in this affair.

2. Second Category of Criminals, the officials of the Government involved in the deportation and massacre of the Armenian people, should be tried by special courts. A divergence existed between the view of the Council of Ministers on one hand, and on the other, the Council of the State. The government urged that the officials should be tried by the extraordinary courts, while the State Council supported the point of view that the officials should be tried in accordance with the procedure that was in use for the officials of the Government.

3. Third Category of Criminals, for ordinary people involved in the deportation and massacre of the Armenians, nothing would be decided regarding the category for the time being --. These guilty should be tried by ordinary tribunals in proportion as complaints would be introduced against them.

4. Fourth Category of Criminals, those guilty of committing mass murders perpetrated with the agreement of government officials, should be tried by ordinary courts. But, there was a divergence concerning the procedure to be applied to the criminals of this category. 2

On November 4, 1918, the Armenian massacres were discussed in the Ottoman Chamber of Deputies.

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Jamanag, Tuesday, December 10, 1918.

Artaramard, Tuesday, December 10, 1918.

2. La Ren. No. 2, Tuesday, December 10, 1918.

Artaramard, Tuesday, December 10, 1918.



The Representative of Smyrna, Veli Bey, urged that the Chamber must be dissolved. Shefik Bey, Representative of Constantinople, remarked that Veli Bey had kept silent, while he himself struggled during the period of massacres.

Fuad Bey, Representative of Divanié, introduced a motion in ten articles. The motion was read. It urged that all members of both cabinets of Said Halim Pasha 1913-1917 and Ahmed Talaat Pasha February 1917 to October 7, 1918, be brought immediately to Court Martial.

Article fifth of the motion read as follows: "Promulgating provisional laws against humanitarian laws and against the spirit of the Representative Assembly, both cabinets transformed our country into a theater of crimes." 3

Article ten of the same motion read: "They [ both cabinet members K ] organized gangs and helped create confusion and to commit attacks and crimes." 4

On November 3, 1918, in the Turkish Parliament, Greek Representatives Emmanuelidis, Meymaroğlu and Dimitriadis introduced a motion (takrir) to the Assembly of Representatives. This motion was read in the Assembly. It requested that the precedent cabinets be brought to justice, because:

1-Approximatively one million Armenians, who had no other offense than being Armenians, have been exterminated.

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3. Jamanag, November 5, 1918.

4. " " 5, 1918.

2- About 250,000 Greeks were exterminated and their property confiscated.

3. About 550, 000 Greeks living on the shores of the Black ~~Sea~~ and Marmara Seas, have been exterminated and their property confiscated.

4- Representatives Zohrab and Vartkes have been killed.

5- ill-doings committed against Arabs, have provoked tragedies in Hejas, Syria and Mesopotamia.

6- Under the pretext of mobilization, worker battalions were formed, and 250,000 workers died of starvation and misery. 5

On November 22, 1918, the Turkish Government decided to try the originators, authors and accomplices of the Armenian deportations and massacres.

An Imperial Edict ordered that a Commission of Inquiry be formed. This Commission was composed of Mazhar Bey, President, Harutiun Mostitchian, member, Avramaki, member, etc. The Commission of Inquiry began its work immediately in the Office of the Security General, Constantinople. The Commission will deliver to the Council of Ministers, lists of the government officials and military officers, from the highest to the lowest involved in the affairs of the deportations and massacres. It will establish the degree of their guilt for trial, and simple individuals involved in the same affairs, will be tried

by ordinary courts. 6

On November 24, 1918, the Deputy for Aleppo, Syria, stated in the Chamber: "The tremendous tragedy, of which the Turkish Nation is accused, is a crime committed by the former regime, or to say it more exactly, a gang of criminals. The Armenian tragedy is only one of the links in a long chain of accusations that encompasses the neck of the Turkish Nation. It is the <sup>work</sup> of some criminals who were hidden in the General Headquarters, of their officials in the provinces and districts, such as Valis,<sup>7</sup> Mutesarifs, 8, Kaymakams, 9, gendarmerie commanders and police commissioners down to simple gendarmes, (who com-<sup>posed</sup> the Special Organization (Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa). 10.

"Government officials, who led the people to massacre for personal interest, are responsible. The criminals are not few in number; they are in a greater number than we think. If I name them one by one, it will require a lot of time, day will come night.

"The vindication for the Turkish nation will consist in punishing the criminals. There is a governor general who proudly stated: 'I rendered my province as a com-

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6. Jamanag, November 23, 1918.

7. Vali, Governor General of a vilâyet or province.

8. Mutesarif, Governor of a Sanjak or district.

9. Kaymakam, governor of a Kaza or sub-district.

10. Jamanag, November 25, 1918, p.2, col.1.

complete a desert as Hejaz." And the Turks who were with him during the reception, spit at his face." 11

A twenty-one member Committee of Representatives, called the Fifth Committee, was formed in the Chamber. This Committee investigated the matter of Armenian massacres in the Chamber, for five days, beginning November 21, to 25, 1918. 12

On December 9, 1918, Ilias Sami Efendi, Deputy for Moush, attempted to justify the Armenian tragedy and reduce the question of massacres and deportations of the Armenians by calling it a result of a rebellion of Armenians in Van. The Representative of Kozan (Sis) replied:

"If a brigand or bandit commits a crime in Van, such a fact cannot and must not give the Government a right to deport and massacre Armenians in Adrianople, 13, Izmid or other provinces, not even the Armenians of Van.

"For a localized affair, deportation and massacre of all the Armenian people in Turkey may only be the <sup>u</sup>attributions of a non-civilized government, such as that of the Turkish Government and Turkish justice.

"Conclusion: Punish all the guilty parties, whoever they may be; restore Armenian property seized under orders from the last two cabinets. Return Armenian girls

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11. Jamanag, November 26, 1918, p.2, col. 2-3.

12. La Ren. No. 9, 1918.

13. Trebizond to Bursa 712 miles, Erzerum to Balikeser 965 miles, Diarbekir to Adrianople 1009 miles, Van to Adrianople 1210 miles, Van to Smyrna 1222 miles.

and boys from the Turkish harem to their homes." 14

On December 1918, an Imperial Edict ordered the constitution of an extraordinary court martial to prosecute the cases of deportation and massacre of the Armenian people.

By decision of the Council of Ministers, the Ottoman Empire was divided into ten regions and in each of these ten regions Inquiry Commissions and courts martial were established to investigate and prosecute authors and accomplices of the Armenian massacres.

Besides, the First and Second Courts Martial at Constantinople, it was decided to establish courts martial at Adana, Adrianople, Yozgat, Bursa, Samsun, Aintab, Ankara, Smyrna, Banderma and Rodosto.

These courts martial were charged with investigating the cases of the individuals responsible for the deportation and massacre of the Armenians. 15

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14. Jamanag, Monday, December 9, 1918, p. 2, col. 1 and 2.

The attitude of the Armenians in Van was simply a self-defense, as established by Tahsin Bey, Vali of Erzerum, in reply to the order of Talaat Bey, Minister of Internal Affairs: coded telegrams May 10 and 11, 1915  
JAJ. No.

15. Jagadamard, January 7, 1919. La Ren. No. 58, Feb. 6, 1919.  
Azadamard, December, 16, 1918. 9

## Decision made by the Council of Ministers

In the Council of Ministers decision was made on November 23, 1918<sup>6</sup> to divide the Ottoman Empire into ten special zones and designate for each zone an attorney general and judges of instruction for investigation and establishment of those responsible for <sup>the</sup> Armenocide. 16

The number of these responsible, and criminals, was exceedingly high. The policy of the new cabinet consisted in trying and punishing the criminals of the Armenocide, and get real result prior to going to the Peace Conference.

Besides Constantinople, Courts Martial were established in Adana, Adrianople, Smyrna, Bursa, Samsun, Aintab, Ankara, Harput, Yozgat, Banderma and Rodosto. These courts martial were charged with the investigation of the cases of originators of the deportation and massacre of the Armenians and their accomplices. 17

At the first session of the Extraordinary Court Martial at Constantinople, on February 5, 1919, governor Kemal's defense attorney objected that the Court in Constantinople was not competent to try Kemal's case in the capital because Takvim-i Vakayi, the official organ of the Government had published a decree resulting from the decision made in the Council of Ministers, November 23<sup>to</sup>/~~24~~, 1918, to try the authors of the massacres and their accomplices, as ten courts martial were <sup>3.</sup> ~~wormed~~ <sup>formed?</sup> in several zones.

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16. Jamanag, January 7, 1919.

17. Azadamard, December 16, 1918.

Jagadamard, January 7, 1919.



The defense attorney concluded that, as the alleged massacres had taken place in Yozgat and Boghazlian, his client governor Kemal had to be judged not by the Court in Constantinople, but the Court Martial in Yozgat, or in Konia where he was arrested. 18

In accordance with the provisions of the project of judiciary reforms then in effect, the salaries of judges and court officials were raised 20<sup>to</sup>50 per cent. A decision was made to appoint judges for the provinces of Erzerum, Van and Bitlis. Colonel Hilmi Pasha was appointed President of the Military Cooperative Association. War Office officers as well as these in military circles and institutions in Constantinople could be members.

Infantry Lieut. Colonel Emin Bey was appointed President of the Court Martial in Smyrna and Bedri Bey was one of the officers. 19

The decision made in the Council of Ministers consisted of dividing the Ottoman Empire into ten regions, (so) <sup>where</sup> that courts martial and proceedings could take place in the zone<sup>s</sup> where deportations and massacres were carried out, or where the criminals were arrested and put in<sup>to</sup> prison for trial. Each region would have an attorney general and a president of the court martial, and several judges of instructions 20

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18. La Ren. No. 58, February 6, 1919.

19. Jamanag, November 24, 1918, and January 24, 1919.

20. Artaramard, or Azadamard, Monday, December 16, 1918.

The ten regions were the following:

1. Ankara and Kastamuni provinces, and the district of Bolu (Müstakil Sancak).
2. Trebizond province and the district of Samsun.
3. The provinces of Bursa and Adrianople, and the Chatalja district.
4. Aidin province, Chanakkalé district, as well as the district of Carassi (Müstakil Sanjak).
5. The province of Konia, and the districts of Eskishehir, Karahisar and Antalia.
6. The Sivas province and the districts of Kayseri and Yozgat.
7. The two provinces of <sup>K</sup>Harput and Diarbekir.
8. The three provinces of Erzerum, Van and Bitlis.
9. The Adana province and the district of Marash (Müstakil Sancak).
10. The two districts of Urfa and Aintab, and the district of Der-Zor (Müstakil Sancak). 21

Ten commissions were thus formed. They had the mission of opening investigations concerning the excesses carried out and atrocities against the Armenians during deportation. These commissions had to travel to different locales in Anatolia. 22

In these areas courts were formed, prosecutors and judges were designated for each zone, as well as recording secretaries. The decision provided expenses for the travel of the judiciary officials and officers, and a daily salary of three Turkish pounds were given each.

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21. Artaramard, Monday, December 16, 1918.

22. Azadamard, Monday, December 16, 1918.

## Jurisprudence

"Jagadamard", February 9, 1919

On February 8, 1919, ~~with~~ the accused Turks <sup>were accompanied</sup> ~~came~~ into the courtroom <sup>by</sup> ~~lawyers~~, Armenian Defense Attorneys: Mr. Himayag Hosrovian, Mr. Hagop Bahri, Mr. Avedis Surenian.

By order of Mahmud Hayret Pasha, ~~XXXX~~ President of the Court Martial, the Recording Secretary read two official documents:

The first of these documents established personal defense attorneys, the son of Garabed Kuyumjian from Yozgat, who stated that by order of Kemal Bey, Acting Mutesarifi of Yozgat, Tevfik Bey, Gendarmerie Commander of Yozgat, and Feyaz Bey, chief official of Finance Department of Yozgat, had organized the massacre of the Armenians of Yozgat, that all members of his family were massacred, that his <sup>S</sup> ~~sister~~ was raped and then killed, and that he himself was wounded and forced to accept <sup>The</sup> Islamic religion.

The plaintiff demanded punishment of <sup>those</sup> ~~the~~ responsible and restoration of damages. At the same time he designated Himayag Hosrovian and Avedis Surenian his personal defense attorneys.

By the second document Haig Kulhanjian was representing ~~in~~ himself to the Court Martial as his own personal defense, demanded punishment of <sup>those</sup> responsible and restitution of 10.000 T.P. (or actually 350.000 dollars) for damages incurred by his family, and he designated Hagop Bahri his

procurator defense attorney.

Hami Bey, one of the six defense attorneys of the accused three Turks tried to refute and break down the request and the designation made by the Armenian plaintiff. He remarked that in such manner and way every one may be plaintiff, designate procurators and defense attorneys, that these Armenian plaitiffs are complaining before this <sup>ov</sup> Court Martial but have never proved and established officially that they are real heirs of the people in question.

Himayag Hosrovian argued that this was an audacious refusal against the personal defense attorneys and that one must not ask for certificates of death for massacred people and certificates of heritage from such individuals whose parents and relatives have been massacred by the hundreds, *and registers destroyed.*

The Armenian plain~~iffs~~<sup>t</sup>iffs are not introducing actions for heritage before this Extraordinary Court Martial, ~~th~~ but they are presenting before the court their parents and relatives who ~~are~~ not alive, and as they had been massacred by order of the Turkish Government, it is impossible to obtain official certificates of death.

Sami Bey, the Imperial Attorney General of the Extraordinary Court Martial agreed ~~with~~, and the Court Martial officially accepted the Armenian Plaintiffs and their personal defense attorneys.

This was a new procedure in the jurisprudence of the



Ottoman Constitution and even in international law, by ~~consecrated~~ <sup>consecrated</sup> usage in an Ottoman Extraordinary Court Martial composed of half military officers and half civil officials.

"Jamanag", February 11, 1919.

Leon Remzi was <sup>in</sup> the courtroom during the third session in his capacity of defense personal attorney.

Other Armenian lawyers Himayag Hosrovian, Hagop Bahri and Avedis Surenian were no more in the courtroom.

But there <sup>w</sup>ere in the courtroom three Armenian teenagers, ~~h~~ <sup>h</sup> - ~~agers~~, survived of massacres, sitting on the chairs reserved to personal defense attorneys. These three teenagers were representing the Armenian victims about 6000 of Yozgat and Boghazlian who were deported and massacred at Keller, a village previously designated as slaughterhouse.

In turn these three Armenian teenagers representing the Armenian victims, had designated Leon Remzi as defense attorney representing and advocating the rights of the Armenian victims.

One of the three Armenian teenagers introduced a request, denouncing that Tevfik Bey, Gendarmerie Commander of Yozgat, had <sup>cut</sup> ~~g~~ at Keller, the finger of the Armenian lawyer Nahabed Efendi, his father, ~~cut~~ to take off the precious ring, and that Tevfik Bey personally had killed there his father and uncle and taken over 8.000 T.P. or 280.000 dollars. The Armenian teenager

had given in his request the names of other criminals.

The Court Martial retired for deliberations.

Half an hour later the Court announced the decision made to arrest and try the criminals whose names were announced in the request.

Leon Remzi accused Kemal Bey, Acting Mutesarif of Yozgat, who had abused the power he was invested with to deport Armenians. The instructions prohibited to deport parents and relatives of Armenian soldiers in the Ottoman Army.

Kemal had answered<sup>d</sup> frankly: "We got absolute orders to annihilate Armenians. We <sup>were</sup> ~~have~~ not to listen <sup>to</sup> ~~any~~ person. Muammer [Vali of Sivas K], Reshid [Vali of Diarbekir K] and I [Acting Mutesarif of Yozgat K] ~~we~~ received absolute orders, and I ~~could~~ <sup>could obey no</sup> ~~cannot~~ hear any other orders. I am the conquerer of Armenians. "

Besides, Leon Remzi introduced to the Court a list of items plundered worthy 8,000 T.P. or 280,000 dollars.

The Imperial Attorney General Sami Bey demanded the names of victims killed at Keller.

Leon Remzi ironically gave him whatever names at random in order to show the Court that it was ridiculous to ask such questions and impossible to enumerate six thousand names in the Court.

Another young Armenian representing the Armenian



stated in his capacity of a defense attorney that Tevfik Bey had brought Armenian <sup>girls who</sup> ~~girls~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~survived~~ from massacres <sup>at</sup> ~~to~~ Yozgat, and in the front of the Governor's palace, forced them to accept Islam. <sup>then</sup> ~~then~~ he distributed such islamized girls as a gift to his gendarmes.

Kemal Bey answering a question of the Attorney General denied that he had ~~never~~ been in Keller to massacre Armenians.

Leon Remzi stated then: "Keller is one of the cemeteries of Armenians. If today an autopsy was carried out on the spot, one may find there bones, and several parts of corpses, without members such as ears, eyes having been put out. Let an investigation be made on the spot to bring to evidence the massacres ~~carried out~~ ~~per~~ perpetrated in Keller, which is a cemetery of 6,000 Armenians.

Kemal and Tevfik denied <sup>it</sup> and stated that deported Armenians <sup>had/</sup> ~~arrived~~ <sup>at</sup> Der Zor safe and sound. Then the Imperial Attorney General asked ~~asked~~ them: If Armenians were not to be massacred, why <sup>was</sup> their money ~~was~~ plundered. If they were not going to die, <sup>should you not have left</sup> you had to leave <sup>along</sup> them their money to give them a chance to live ~~on~~ the way.".